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Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Warns of 'Explosion' in Territories

NC2303163793 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 23 (AFP)—A leading Palestinian warned Tuesday [23 March] of a possible explosion in the occupied territories because of Israeli policies and frustration with the stalled Middle East peace process.

"The factors of frustration have started to grow in the absence of tangible results from the peace negotiations," Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian peace team, told the United Arab Emirates magazine AL-SHURUQ.

"This, added to Israeli repression, could make extremism and opposition a majority and this can silence the voice of reason," she warned. "The economic situation is also worsening. This situation could escalate into an explosion."

Asked if she agreed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's forecast that 1993 could bring peace to the Middle East, 'Ashrawi said: "It could become the year of peace or the year of disasters.

"We are at a crossroads, or let us call it the moment of truth.

"Either Israel follows a behaviour that respects human rights and adheres to the basis of the peace process ... or it will be the second option, which is the deterioration of the situation."

'Ashrawi charged that the Israeli army was "committing massacres against Palestinians and the Israeli settlers consider themselves above the law."

Twenty Palestinians and 10 Israelis have been killed so far this month. In the latest unrest, a Jewish settler shot dead a teenaged Palestinian suspect Tuesday on the occupied West Bank.

The Palestinians refuse to take part in the next round of Middle East peace talks, set to open April 20 in Washington, until a solution is found to the 400 Palestinians deported by Israel in December.

PLO Ready To Receive Gaza Strip 'Immediately'

NC2403091793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—The PLO said it is prepared to receive the Gaza Strip in the event of a sudden Israeli withdrawal, indicating that there are Palestinian plans to administer and develop the Strip in all fields.

In a statement to MENA, Palestine National Council [PNC] secretary Muhammad Subayh said that if Israel withdraws from the Strip, we are committed to implementing the 1974 PNC decision calling for the establishment of Palestinian national authority on any part of the occupied territories evacuated by the enemy or liberated from occupation.

Subayh indicated that the PLO, along with several Arab capitals, is studying the steps that must be taken in this direction. He said that all Arab countries have a responsibility to support the Gaza Strip economically and with various expertise in the event of a sudden Israeli withdrawal.

Subayh said we want Israel to completely withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. He called for the implementation of all UN resolutions through serious peace talks.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani said that the PLO is ready to receive the Gaza Strip immediately, either directly or indirectly through Egypt or the United Nations. He, however, explained that Israel is not serious about this subject.

Al-Surani said we are currently negotiating on a withdrawal from all of the occupied territories, the return of 4 million Palestinian refugees, the right of self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The goal is not the Gaza Strip alone, he added.

Al-Surani said Israel is suffering from its occupation of the Gaza Strip and is paying a high price for it. Israel must realize that occupation will not achieve the stability and prosperity it is expecting and will cost the country a great deal. He described the situation in the Gaza Strip as miserable, noting that poverty, hunger, unemployment, and deterioration in the health conditions of the population prevail in that small area, which is inhabited by 1 million people whose economic resources have been fully exploited by Israel.

Al-Surani said there is a Palestinian plan to develop the Gaza Strip but its implementation requires financial aid from the Arab states, Europe, and the United States.

'Ashrawi: PLO Ready 'To Take Over' Gaza Strip

TA2403114893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Gay Bekhor, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] "The PLO is willing to take over rule in the Gaza Strip after Israeli pullout." This observation was made yesterday by Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. "We cannot object to Israeli withdrawal from our lands, but we obviously do not want the occupied territories to be divided. The best solution would be total (Israeli) withdrawal," she said. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi further cautioned that the territories are on the verge of an explosion as a result of the absence of progress in the peace process, which can only encourage

escalation and extremism. In an interview published in today's (24 March) issue of the AL-SHURUQ weekly published in Abu Dhabi, 'Ashrawi said there was as yet no final decision with regard to the Palestinians' participation in the ninth round of Washington talks.

Speaking yesterday in Jerusalem, 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian representatives of the territories would meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington on Friday [26 March] to discuss the resumption of the peace talks. The delegation to Washington will be headed by Faysal al-Husayni, who has already conveyed a message from the PLO to the U.S. ambassador in Tunis. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Aides Vow 'To Set Territories on Fire'

TA2403121793 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 24 Mar 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] "The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers will pay for Rabin's policy. If Rabin does not stop his smokescreen policy, things could get out of control at any minute." These remarks, which are harsher than I have heard since the beginning of the intifadah, were made this week by 'Arafat's aide Bassam Abu-Sharif in a telephone conversation from Tunis. He said: "Rabin only understands force. He is a bully general. He will get what he understands."

Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's aide and the organization's liaison with the Washington talks, told HA'OLAM HAZE from his Cairo residence: "We are at war right now. We have ordered our men to set the territories on fire. Rabin's moves have brought on the present escalation. Rabin is doing what Shamir never dared. If he brings tanks into Gaza, there will be a disaster."

It is estimated in the PLO that the escalation plays into the hands of the Palestinians. The question they asked this week was: When will Rabin get tanks into Gaza, and how likely is that scenario? The two senior aides believe that all hell will break loose in the territories before the Washington encounter.

Nabil Sha'th sounded more pessimistic than Abu-Sharif. Sha'th said: "And suppose we get to Washington—what then? Will we continue the blabber for another whole year?" What do you propose, I asked Sha'th. Sha'th: "Rabin must take several steps in the sphere of human rights. He should start at least where Camp David left off. Rabin is miles away from Camp David. He knows it, and he does it deliberately. Rabin must announce a plan starting with an interim arrangement, in the course of which IDF troops will pull out of towns, camps, and the entire Gaza Strip in accordance with the Camp David formula. Rabin has received our consent to that. Rabin has received our consent to an 'interim solution,' and that is something no Israeli Government has ever received from us."

Bassam Abu-Sharif said the Warren Christopher formula, or the U.S. secretary of state's so-called six-point proposal for the solution of the deportee problem, will eventually bring the Palestinians to Washington. Until then, however, anything can happen. Can PLO-Tunis control the Khan Yunus youths? Abu-Sharif: "The PLO is in control of the events in the territories, but with the crazy escalation and the use of weapons, no one can expect us to tell our men to calm down. On the contrary, we asked our men to set the territories on fire, and that is what is happening right now."

Delegate Assaulted by Settlers, Calls For Truce

TA2303164493 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Tulkarm—QUDS PRESS—A member of the advisory team to the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks has called on the Israeli Government to intervene decisively and put an end to attacks by armed settlers against defenseless Palestinian residents in the occupied territories.

Dr. Thabit Thabit, a member of the advisory team to the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, was assaulted by a group of settlers last Monday evening.

Dr. Thabit told a QUDS PRESS correspondent that Jewish settlers had assaulted him while he was driving to his home in Tulkarm.

The Palestinian delegation member called for a temporary truce in the occupied territories between the Palestinians and Israel. During this period, intensive peace talks should be held between the two sides in a bid to reach a political settlement that "stops this cycle of mutual violence."

Dr. Thabit said that the Israeli Government should hold direct contacts with the Palestinian people's leadership—in reference to the PLO. He added: The Palestinian and Israeli sides must be decisive in stopping violence in the occupied territories, or put a three-month truce into effect. During this time, intensive contacts should be held between the PLO and the Israeli Government to stop this cycle of mutual violence. Dr. Thabit said that events in the occupied territories "are having an impact on the climate of a political breakthrough between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples." He pointed out that if these events do not stop, they will constitute a significant obstacle to the Palestinian people's continued participation in the peace talks, whereby one who talks about peace will bring disgrace upon himself.

PLO Sends Memorandum to Security Council

LD2303202793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The PLO sent an official memorandum to the president of the UN Security Council and to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The memorandum is about the grave situation in the occupied

territories resulting from noticeably increasing Israeli repression and from grave violations of Palestinian rights. The Palestinian memorandum calls on the UN Security Council to examine the current situation and to take the necessary measures to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 781.

Al-Husayni To Leave for Washington 25 Mar

JN2303175393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee affiliated with the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has announced that he will leave for Washington on Thursday [25 March] at the head of a delegation made up of members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. This comes in response to an official invitation extended to him by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to work on surmounting the difficulties standing in the way of the resumption of the peace talks.

Al-Husayni made these remarks to the Jordan News Agency prior to his departure from Amman for the occupied Palestinian territories this afternoon at the conclusion of a working tour that has taken him to Britain, Morocco, Tunisia, and Jordan over the past month.

Al-Husayni described the results of his tour as extremely positive. He deemed these results a step toward surmounting the difficulties facing the peace process. He added that the British officials demonstrated an immense understanding of the deportee issue and affirmed their concern for the resumption of the peace process, for upgrading the level of British-PLO contacts, and also for maintaining these contacts in the interest of the welfare and future of the peoples of the region.

Al-Husayni went on to say that he relayed a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco on bilateral ties and the peace process. He also paid tribute to the level of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, underscoring its effectiveness and importance for the peace process.

Negotiators To Attend PLO Leadership Meeting

TA2303144393 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Tunis—The Palestinian leadership will hold a meeting in the Tunisian capital on 30 March. The leadership comprises 20 members from the PLO Executive Committee, representatives from Palestinian factions, and some members of the Fatah Central Committee.

Responsible Palestinian sources have said that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and some delegation members will attend the Palestinian leadership's meeting.

In this meeting, the leadership will discuss the results of the cordon states' foreign ministers conference that will be held in Damascus on 28 March. The leadership will also discuss the latest developments on the deportee issue in light of recent Palestinian contacts with a number of Arab and European capitals.

'Arafat Urges Intifadah Youths To Remain Firm

LD2403085793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian president, at dawn today saluted the men of the Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories and their steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation forces, praising the heroic, magnificent epics made by the youths of the intifadah, and the most sublime examples of sacrifice by their brave resistance of the occupation army, its policy, its crimes, and its continuous violations of the simplest of human rights.

He called on the youths of the intifadah to remain firm and confront the crimes of the Israeli occupier and its practices which dally with the land, man, and sanctities, and to renew the pledge to protect the land, and its Muslim and Christian sanctities.

PLO's Qaddumi on Talks Resumption, Deportees

NC2303161593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, 23 Mar (MENA)—Chief of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi has reiterated that big sister Egypt plays an active role in consolidating the peace march. He pointed out that Egypt is not a mediator but a partner, that it plays a role in supporting the Palestinian cause and restoring the lawful national rights of the Palestinian people, and that it undertook contacts at the highest levels to realize this goal.

In an interview published today by Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH, Qaddumi pointed out that as an Arab state, Egypt is interested in finding a just and comprehensive solution. Although it is not directly involved in negotiations, Egypt is eager to push the peace march ahead and eliminate the obstacles that emerged recently, he stated.

Qaddumi noted that Egypt cooperates, coordinates, and meets regularly with the four parties involved in the peace process; Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

Qaddumi ruled out that Syria might sign a unilateral peace agreement with Israel, adding: I do not think that Syria has reached a full agreement with Israel; negotiations are still being held on the principles. He noted that every now and then Israel announces that negotiations have made progress along one track or another. It then turns out that these were mere rumors to create doubt and uncertainty among the different Arab negotiators.

He emphasized that it is not possible to question Syria's stand. There might be certain differences concerning

details, but this is natural among brothers, he said. It took strenuous efforts to end our estrangement with Syria and it is inconceivable today to destroy what we have built, he explained.

Commenting on differences in Arab stands on negotiations—whether they should or should not be linked to the deportees issue—Qaddumi said Arab states do not differ in their stands on the deportees. All the Arab states that sponsored the Palestinian demand on the UN Security Council to issue a resolution in this connection maintained the same stand and insisted on implementing the resolution, he said, adding: Linking the resumption of negotiations with the deportees' return concerns the Palestinians more than any other party. He explained that negotiations are being held along separate tracks and that the Palestinian track encountered an obstacle represented by the deportees issue.

Faruq Qaddumi added that the Palestinian side has assumed a clear-cut stand on the resumption of negotiations by linking it to the deportees' return. He pointed out that the other Arab parties have backed that stand and that Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon accepted the six points that developed from the Palestinians' meeting with [U.S. Secretary of State Warren] Christopher in Jerusalem. Therefore, there is no difference between one delegation and another, because all the Arab parties insist on the need to return all the deportees in accordance with international legitimacy, he stressed.

Touching on Arab coordination prior to the five-sided meeting [in Damascus], Faruq Qaddumi pointed out that the PLO is maintaining direct and constant contacts with the Arab parties and that further contacts are held in the different stages as necessary to discuss the obstacles blocking the peace march.

He noted that his tour of Egypt and Syria was for consultation over the developments emerging in the wake of Christopher's tour of the region; namely, the six points. He described the tour as successful, adding that the Arab parties adopted these points and that Syria and Egypt sent a joint message to the United States supporting these points and urging the United States to assume a neutral stand to facilitate the progress of the peaceful march.

Qaddumi asserted that Arab coordination and cooperation continue at the individual, bilateral, tripartite, and quadripartite levels. He noted that the PLO is holding consultations with other Arab states, like the Arab Maghreb Union.

On the Palestinian stand to be proposed during the Damascus coordination meeting, Faruq Qaddumi said that it is the same stand they have repeated all along. This stand is that it is impossible for the Palestinian delegation to resume negotiations as long as the deportees problem is not resolved. The more important point is that Israel and the United States must publicly pledge that Israel will not resort to deportation again. In addition, there is an important point, which was the reason for freezing negotiations; namely that Israel continues to insist on self-administration and refuses to implement Resolution 242 in the first stage. We rejected this and were reluctant to attend the eighth round and actually attended with half a delegation.

In his interview with the Tunisian magazine AL-SABAH, Faruq Qaddumi clarified that the Arab stand will be decided during the Damascus meeting. However, he added, our stand is that the round should be suspended until the deportees issue is resolved. If it is not resolved, this means that we accept the status quo Israel is imposing and are unable to stop it despite Resolution 799. It also means that we accept the fact that Israel will present its interpretations of Resolution 242; in other words, it will interpret this resolution in a way that serves its own interests.

Qaddumi denied any Moroccan mediation to organize an American-Palestinian meeting. He said that King Hassan II of Morocco is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and is directly involved in this issue. When Christopher left the region without mentioning the issue of Jerusalem, it was passed on to all the Islamic countries and Morocco to exert efforts to keep Jerusalem on the agenda of negotiations.

Qaddumi said the message the two brothers Faysal al-Husayni and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] conveyed to the Moroccan monarch contained minute details about the Palestinian stand and details of what took place between us and the United States. The latter claims that the agreement between us was violated by the PLO. The truth is that Israel violated the agreement after we had confirmed to our delegation that we would meet the next day to make the decision and formulate the details on which agreement was reached between a member of the U.S. delegation and the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem. However, we were surprised to find that Warren Christopher left the region and ignored the Jerusalem issue, which was on the agenda as part of the occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with Resolution 242.

On Rabin's recent visit to Washington, Faruq Qaddumi said the PLO was not surprised by the level of friendliness, and anyone who believes that the United States will some day stand alongside the Arabs against Israel is deluding himself. When we first started with the peace process, the United States was calling for imposing sanctions on the PLO.

Qaddumi added that Israel is the United States' strategic ally. We do not want the big powers to draw the map of the Middle East in our absence, as was the case in the past. Therefore, we have to stay in this corridor that is forced upon us, to stop this Israeli settlement expansion. For this reason, peace in the Middle East cannot be accomplished unless the Palestinian people regain their rights. The United States cannot imagine the possibility of realizing this stability without a solution to the Palestine question.

Regarding reports about Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian reaction to that, Faruq Qaddumi said that ever since the first bullet was fired the Palestinians have specified their objective of regaining every inch of their territory. If Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip—a remote possibility—we are ready to assume responsibility for this inch of land because it is Palestinian land. We welcome the return of our land, irrespective of the circumstances we are going through and despite all reports that Israel will withdraw. It will not withdraw from the Gaza Strip because that would definitely mean its withdrawal from the West Bank.

Requirements for Participation in Talks Reiterated

TA2303194293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Mar 93 p 11

[Editorial: "U.S. Guarantees and Israeli Commitments"]

[Text] Palestinian sources say that Palestinian participation in the ninth round of peace talks, expected to be held on 20 April, hinges most of all on an Israeli commitment not to resort to deportation in the future and a U.S. guarantee of this commitment. This condition, which calls for other U.S. guarantees on the terms of reference and topics of negotiations, is based on previous Palestinian experience in dealing with the Israeli negotiator and the mediator, the U.S. sponsor, during past rounds of negotiations.

Demanding commitments and guarantees from Israel and the United States has subtle meaning. Israel is occupying Arab lands, is imposing control over the inhabitants of these lands through occupation, and is using certain measures and punishments through this control. Deportation, merely one of those punishments, has been termed a violation of human rights by international organizations. As for the United States, it considers appeasement of Israel, whether justly or unjustly, as both the end and the means. In order to appease Israel, the United States finds it permissible to exercise its veto at the Security Council or back down from a Council resolution that the United States itself approved along with the other Council members.

Undoubtedly, the talks, whether in terms of reference or topics, are the result of previous U.S. guarantees. On the Palestinian level, former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker confined the talks to the autonomy plan. This plan excludes Jerusalem, which Washington acknowledges has the same legal status as the other Arab territories occupied in 1967. Direct PLO participation in the talks is also excluded.

Hence, Palestinian interest in rectifying the negotiating track to achieve the Palestinian people's just aspirations are legitimate given Israeli-U.S. handling of internationally legitimate resolutions, particularly Resolution 799, in front of the entire world. Why do Israel and the United States adamantly refuse to discuss the final status of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, or even clearly acknowledge that Security Council Resolution 242 applies to those territories? And why is one not allowed to discuss the issue of Jerusalem? And, finally, why does the PLO not participate in the talks on equal footing with the other parties?

These questions must be resolved simultaneously with the implementation of Resolution 799. Israeli-U.S. foot-dragging in implementing this resolution became an incentive for Palestinian self-appraisal and provided an opportunity to assess negotiating processes in the past, present, and future. What remains is that the required Israeli commitments should be serious and sincere, and the U.S. guarantees for those commitments should be firm and binding, especially to Israel.

PLO Cuts Aid to Territories' Institutions

TA2303151693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned that the PLO has reduced its allocations to several institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by 30 percent. This is due to the financial crisis which the PLO is undergoing because the Arab states have suspended aid.

Algeria

Thousands Participate in Marches Against Terrorism

LD2303115093

[Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1200 GMT on 22 March carries a 14-minute report on marches held throughout the country that day to condemn violence and assassinations. The radio begins: "As was scheduled, and by comparison with other towns and provinces, the capital complied with the call for the participation in a peaceful national march to condemn violence and assassinations. The march was called for by a number of national societies and organizations, and Martyrs Square was designated for its start."

A correspondent on the scene then reports from the 1 May Square that "from our talk with some citizens, the number of the participants exceeds 100,000." It is "a huge march," he says, adding that "the streets are packed from the 1 May Square to Ahmed Amirouche Street." All shops on the route are closed "in solidarity with this march, the peaceful march against violence and terrorism," he notes. He goes on: "As for the flow of traffic, the cars are at a standstill as expected. Concerning organization, it was tight, and it has so far been a quiet march."

The chairman of the Algerian Doctors Union then states: "This march recalls the march organized in solidarity with the Iraqi people. The stance of the Algerian people now is a complete rejection of violence and terrorism. It is enough, no killing of doctors. It is enough, no killing of cadres. It is enough, no killing of our scientists."

This is followed by radio correspondents' reports on similar marches organized in Oran, Batna, and Constantine, which contain casual impressions, on occasions very emotional, from unidentified members of the general public taking part in the march against terrorism, violence, and bloodshed.

The report then reverts to the correspondent at the Algiers march who states: "The demonstrators are carrying pictures of the deceased Mohamed Boudiaf and Houari Boumedienne, and there are slogans which we can read saying, for instance: No to the assassination of the future of Algeria; No to violence; No to terrorism; Algeria's future is free and independent."

Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT likewise reports on the marches with reports from correspondents in various locations. In Tizi Ouzou, a correspondent states that "huge masses gathered to denounce violence and terrorism." An unidentified speaker states: "Civil servants and demonstrators denounced publicly and strongly extremist violence from whatever source it emanates. Second, they denounce the political and monetary Mafia. They strongly reject the policy of compromise with all forms of extremism. They are determined to use all their power to defend a modern and democratic Algeria."

The television then carries reports on similar demonstrations in Chlef, Medea, Bouira, Djelfa, and Bejaia. "Thousands" of people participated in these events, correspondents note.

UGTA Leader Speaks

LD2303143693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Today's event is a popular and huge one, vis-a-vis its volume and significance. No to violence, no to terrorism, no to physical liquidation, no to the assassination of smiling children.

Marches were held today in Algiers and all over Algeria. As expected, and at midday citizens took to the street to protect the homeland, to put a stop to the bloodshed, to say no to violence and terrorism, no to the rape of hope. Today at midday, Algeria issued a profound shout because of the effect of the wound. The shout was sincere and strong, it emanated neither from the east nor from the west, nor from any political circle. This shout simply stated that the homeland should not be brought to its knees. In Algiers, the march was a huge one; it expressed the feeling of anger. Here now is Ahmed Megaach:

[Megaach] The march was a great one just like the people's greatness. It began from Martyr's Square toward the People's House at 1 May Square via Che Guevara, Zigoud Youssef, Colonel Amirouche, Hassiba Ben Bouali streets. Thousands of citizens were present; they answered the call of the homeland to save the country; young and old men and women as well as children took part in the march, and shouted slogans against terrorism. They called for the safeguard of the people's and the country's unity; they chanted for nationalism and hoisted flags and expressed their commitment to the historic and civilized symbols of this people. They sang for a strong, developed Algeria; a modern yet original Algeria. The march was huge and the people's presence was overwhelming. It was the first revolution against terrorism, against fear and against despair. The people was liberated from its fear. [passage omitted]

The march was a victory for the citizens, because they were behind its successful organization. It was a success for the security forces, because the march passed peacefully as no incident worthy of mention happened. It was a success for Algeria because it represented a significant step on the path of achieving Algeria's stability and security.

However, while all factions of people took to the street to take part in the historic march, calling for the unity of the homeland and the people, condemning terrorism and crime against the future of Algeria, and hoisting national flags and portraits of some martyrs of national duty, some party apparatuses tried to take advantage of the

national feeling and the people's wrath against sedition. They brandished political slogans that had nothing to do whatsoever with the goals of the national and historic march. These apparatuses proved that they were at the level of the parties' leadership. They did not represent the grassroots of the parties. They proved their historic failure to rise to the level that Algeria should be placed above all considerations; and to the slogan of the late President Mohamed Boudiaf, may he rest in peace, that Algeria is above everybody. [passage omitted]

When the march reached the People's House, UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers] Secretary General Abdelhaq Benhamouda delivered a speech on behalf of all organizations and movements that organized this march. Here now follows a broadcast of this speech:

[Begin Benhamouda recording] Brothers and sisters, citizens, the Algerian people have organized a march under its own leadership. It is the Algerian people who has organized this march today; it was not organized by parties, or political personalities. No, it was organized by the people. It has organized this march to declare that it is against the assassination of the soldier, because the latter belongs to the people. The people has today organized a march to say that it opposes the killing of gendarmes, because they are the sons of the people. The people organized this march today to state that it is against the murder of the policeman, because the police belong to the people. This is people's march under its own leadership to say that the people is against the killing of the youth because the young generation represents Algeria's future. Today's people's march is a way to say no to the assassination of science, no to the murder of culture, because the intellectuals represent Algeria's future. [passage omitted]

All people's social strata and classes, workers and intellectuals, farmers and traders, young and old, women and men are all saying that we have had enough terrorism, enough bloodshed. [passage omitted]

This march is the march of the future. I would like to say that if some quarters use Islam, let me tell them that Islam helped mankind emerge from the dark ages. However these people are trying to make us go back to these dark ages. Today's march is a march of loyalty against treason; it is a march of the Algerian revolution, today's march is for the sake of liberties, democracy, the state, the republican system, because the republic in Algeria is enshrined in November [revolution anniversary]. Prior to this anniversary, the Algerian republic did exist. If we allow some degree of leniency or show some signs of surrender, tomorrow some will demand the establishment of a monarchy; some families insist that they are the only ruling group which knows and owns everything in the country. Therefore, I warn you against this matter. This march is for supporting the republican system in Algeria, because this system belongs to the people; it is the reign of the people. Today's march is a march for complete rupture of relations with evil practices, with men who betrayed the homeland, with a corrupt regime. [passage omitted]

There should be no mercy for those who show no mercy. Brothers, today's march is an answer to those who say that the Algerian people is cowardly and afraid. The millions of protesters marched in all Algerian provinces to condemn terrorism, killing, the assassination of Algeria's future. They denounced selling Algeria to Iran's mullahs, to the Afghans, to Sudan. We would like to say that we stood up to France; we cannot accept Iran. The people who sacrificed one and half million martyrs to drive France out of Algeria, are ready to sacrifice another one and half million martyrs so that these mullahs do not come to Algeria.

Algeria belongs to the sons of Algeria. I would like to say this: Algeria first, Algeria second ,and Algeria forever. Long live Algeria. [end recording]

Constantine Governorate Premises Set on Fire

LD2303153793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The premises of the Constantine Governorate were set on fire this afternoon with fire erupting in some offices. Thus far the origin of the fire remains unknown, and according to reports from our colleagues in the Constantine radio station, the civil protection men have been able to extinguish the fire after more than two hours. You will have more details in our coming newscasts.

Government Communique Reports 2 Gendarmes Killed

LD2303182393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Excerpt] A communique issued by the national gendarmerie states that two gendarmes were killed and three others wounded following an armed attack launched by unidentified persons travelling in two cars between Tevenna and Djimila, in Jijel Province [date not given]; the communique also notes that a terrorist was killed in the attack. The same source told APS that the attackers are probably the remnants of a gang dismantled last February in Djebel Bouhanech, Jijel Province. [passage omitted]

Government Spokesman: Terrorism Will Be Eradicated

LD2303211693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Messaoud Ait Chaalal, the official government spokesman, said in answer to a question from an Algerian Press Service correspondent about the government's reaction to the marches that were organized yesterday that the government considers all the marches that took place yesterday to be successful. They gain a special

meaning because of their immensity, because of the participation of all social sectors, and because of their spontaneous spread to include all the country's territory. These marches represent a true popular intifadah which no doubt marks a decisive turning point in the difficult crisis which the country is passing through.

Mr. Ait Chaalal added that the government is satisfied by the commitment of all the Algerian people, their commitment to foiling acts of sabotage and terrorism, and to working consistently to establish civil peace and to protect our republic and democratic institutions. By the way, the government salutes the various trade union organizations and the organizations of the civil society. They are to be largely credited for bringing together all the Algerian people toward a single national solidarity. This step, Mr. Ait Chaalal added, which in addition to the unanimous stand against terrorism, must give a strong push to the path of national reform to allow our people to have total control over their destiny. For its part, the government will know how to draw lessons from this big popular event and will take all the necessary methods to eradicate terrorism, will work to build a society based on justice, democracy, and progress.

Egypt

Musa on Mubarak Visit to Germany, Britain, U.S.

NC2403105093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said President Husni Mubarak's upcoming visits to Germany, Britain, and the United States next month are very important and aim to promote the ongoing Middle East peace process. In a statement today, Musa said Mubarak will discuss strengthening bilateral relations between Egypt and the states in all fields, especially the economic field. Mubarak will also discuss Egypt-EC relations in light of the Maastricht Treaty.

Musa said that during Mubarak's visit to Germany, Mubarak and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will discuss a plan to strengthen vocational education in Egypt, in addition to economic relations and investment in Egypt. The two leaders will also discuss several problems in the Mediterranean region and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina because Germany has a more advanced policy than other European states on this subject.

Musa discussed President Mubarak's visit to Britain, saying Britain's participation in investment projects in Egypt may exceed that of other states. He indicated that the talks will focus on increasing investment and strengthening trade relations. The talks will also deal with Britain's role in the peace process, the current problems in the Mediterranean region, and Egyptian-EC relations.

Musa also commented on President Mubarak's visit to the United States, saying that Mubarak will discuss the situation in the Middle East and will stress the importance of promoting the peace process and overcoming the obstacles facing it. He will also discuss the strengthening of economic relations. Mubarak will review Egypt's key role in the Middle East peace process, its great interest in this process, the obstacles surrounding the talks, and the situation in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

Asked about reports that President Mubarak will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat next week before his European tour, Musa said that when President Mubarak speaks about the Middle East and the peace process, he speaks in the name of all Arabs interested in peace. President Mubarak's upcoming meetings fall within the framework of the consultations Egypt has held in the past two weeks to coordinate the Arab stand and move forward the peace process. He added that these contacts will culminate in a meeting in Damascus on Sunday [28 March] of the foreign ministers of the five states concerned with the Middle East crisis [Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO] to discuss the Arab stand on the peace process.

Al-Baz on Egyptian, U.S. Role in Peace Process

NC2303170393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Beirut, 23 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed Egypt's readiness to perform its role together with the United States as a full partner in the Middle East peace process during the coming stage.

He said Egypt does not wish to play the role of mediator between the Arabs and Israel because we are a participating and essential Arab side. Our role does not proceed from a neutral perspective, but from the perspective of previous experience and a knowledge of the best means and methods to overcome the obstacles and present new formulas with the objective of bridging gaps during any stage of the negotiations.

In a lengthy interview to be published by the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR in installments, al-Baz pointed out that what is helping us to perform this role is the existence of Egyptian channels of communication with all the parties, whether Arab, Palestinian, Israeli, or American. Therefore, Egypt has the same elements of power that the American side has, in fact, even more since we are in contact with the PLO, which gives us a greater chance of getting to know all stands.

In his interview with AL-DIYAR, al-Baz spoke about the great efforts President Husni Mubarak exerted through expanded contacts on the highest levels to resolve the Palestinian deportees problem. He said President Mubarak held contacts with U.S. President Bill Clinton,

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. Clinton contacted President Mubarak after that. In addition, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also held contacts during his visit to Geneva and talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, as well as with the PLO leadership in Tunis.

Al-Baz also mentioned his visit to Israel, during which he delivered a message from President Mubarak to Rabin on the deportees issue since it constitutes a problem for the Palestinians, at the leadership level as well as at the level of the negotiating delegation, which is finding it difficult to return to the negotiating table. This issue also poisons the political atmosphere and hampers the peace process.

Al-Baz said that the new U.S. Administration was recently convinced that the U.S. role in the peace negotiations should be more active. That is to say the Americans should not be mere observers or godfathers and that their role should not be confined to carrying the mail, gathering the sides, and giving advice. The Americans should present specific ideas and not draft resolutions. They should also propose alternatives to bridge the existing gaps between the sides by proposing various formulas that would satisfy the two sides without any side fearing that it will give concessions.

Al-Baz expects the new U.S. stand to be an extension to the stand of the previous administration. Its role should be active in sponsoring the negotiations. The U.S. role should be basic in arranging the negotiations in the absence of Russian and European roles.

Al-Baz expressed the conviction that the current Israeli Government's policy will differ from the previous government. He said: We must seize this opportunity to bolster the peace course among the Israeli public and in the Israeli establishment so that this government will stop the bloodshed in the occupied territories and change these territories into settlements and to present the peace of the brave, as President Hafiz al-Asad said.

U.S. Media Seen Distorting Egypt's Image

NC2303203893 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 19 Mar 93 p 1

[Editorial: "What Does CNN Want, and Why This Campaign Against Egypt?"]

[Text] The American television station CNN last night held an interview with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who was recently ordered to be expelled from the United States by a U.S. immigration judge because he submitted incorrect immigration documents and wrote a bad check.

One can only conclude from this interview that the American station wanted, in one way or another, to give him the chance to continue his cheap attacks against Egypt and its regime and to reiterate claims and lies that go so far as to provoke the United States and Western countries not to cooperate with Egypt and to bet on a new regime.

This suspect stand is not the first of its kind. It represents a continuation of an organized campaign by some U.S. media that gives the impression that there is a desire to depict the leaders and instigators of terrorism as victims rather than culprits.

This media campaign confirms that there is a plan designed to distort Egypt's image, harm it, and depict it as an unstable country in order to influence the flow of tourists and investments, obstruct the economic reform program, and preoccupy Egypt with matters that will keep it from fulfilling its role and responsibility in the area.

CNN's interview last night not only casts suspicion about the intentions of some, but confirms the feeling that some of the terrorist incidents that have taken enjoyed regional and international encouragement and support.

U.S. Antiterrorism Campaign Called 'Interference'

NC2303143993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Mar 93 p 8

[By Salamah Ahmad Salamah from the "Closeup" column: "Internationalization of Terrorism"]

[Text] The large-scale campaign launched by the United States against so-called international terrorism must be viewed with a lot of caution and reservation. The list of countries accused of supporting terrorism is increasing every day and Israel is playing a role in deciding who these countries are. It wants an international warrant to act on behalf of the United States [against international terrorism] in the Middle East. The idea the United States and Israel are seeking to promote and entrench is that resistance against Islamic groups' terrorism and extremism in the Arab countries and the Middle East should not be left to local governments and regimes alone, but must be internationalized. They believe that the United States, Europe, and Israel should play a role in planning and organizing the forces against it. They use the pretext that "Islamic terrorism" poses a danger not only to the existing regimes, but also to the West and its interests. Yitzhaq Rabin obviously placed this topic on the agenda of his talks with the U.S. Administration in Washington.

Undoubtedly, terrorism and extremism in the Arab region have foreign links, but certainly the problem of extremism and the resulting terrorist phenomenon are primarily a domestic problem directly associated with the political, social, and economic development of societies. The only factor that made terrorism and extremism an issue of international dimensions, attracting the attention of the United States and Israel, is the rise of the Islamic trend in the Palestinian resistance

movement and the emergence of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as an influential factor in the resistance against Israel. The experience of the mujahidin in Afghanistan and their success in resisting and toppling the communist regime set an example and laid the groundwork for a form of Islamic Jihad that may be repeated in other places. In addition, the ruling Iranian regime has ambitions abroad. Foreign forces exploited the Islamic phenomenon and this alerted the international powers that are rallying forces to fight what they call "Islamic terrorism."

The real problem facing the West is to prevent these trends becoming an influential factor in shaping the policies that affect the West's interests and undermining the forces that work in its favor. Hence the danger of the U.S. campaign to internationalize "Islamic terrorism." The United States is using resistance against terrorism and extremism as a pretext to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. Israel wants to become a basic partner to this cooperation to resist terrorism, although Israeli extremism in the occupied Arab territories is largely to blame for generating Islamic extremism in the region.

When we allow the United States to define the type of terrorist activity and ways to resist it, we will open the door to gross interference in our affairs. This is the source of real danger: the attempt to link the blast in New York with other terrorist activities in Egypt and other Arab countries.

Official Denies Report on 'Shoot To Kill' Policy

NC2303134593 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 23 (AFP) - Egypt on Tuesday [23 March] denied an Amnesty International report that the security forces used a "shoot to kill" policy against Muslim militants.

General 'Ali Abu-al-Nasr, head of the interior ministry's security department, said police had specific orders each time they raided a fundamentalist hideout to "fire only in self defence."

"The law gives each citizen the right to legitimate self defence—the extremists begin shooting, which forces the police to shoot back," he said.

He added that a large number of "terrorists" have been arrested without a shot being fired.

A total of 127 people have died in fundamentalist violence since March of last year according to police—59 militants, 27 policemen, 25 Copts and 16 other civilians, including three tourists.

A total of 35 fundamentalists and nine policemen have died since March 8.

Authorities Allow Islamic Group March

NC2403124093 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, March 24 (AFP) - Security forces allowed 3,000 followers of the banned Islamic militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group] to march through this southern Egyptian town to mark the end of Ramadan, witnesses said Wednesday [24 March].

Eight officers and 50 soldiers armed with automatic rifles watched as Husni al-Najdi, the fundamentalist group's local leader, headed the parade late Tuesday.

Two policemen and 11 fundamentalists died in clashes here last week.

Mubarak Pardons 2,000 Prisoners on 'Id al-Fitr

NC2303162893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree releasing 2,000 prisoners who have served half a term without being subjected to penalties throughout their imprisonment. The release was ordered on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr and does not cover persons imprisoned in connection with drug, vice, and terrorist crimes.

Police Reinforcements Sent to Asyut on 'Id al-Fitr

NC2303183693 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 23 (AFP)—Police have sent reinforcements to the southern town of Asyut, a fundamentalist stronghold, for the Muslim feast of 'Id al-Fitr marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, police said Tuesday [23 March].

Security forces have been posted around mosques, churches and public buildings for the feast, which starts Wednesday in Egypt.

Police were stepping up security to prevent any outbreak of trouble during the feast, which brings together hundreds of thousands of Muslims in mosques and public places.

Twelve people were killed in gunbattles between police and Muslim militants in Asyut last week.

Police said 13 members of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah were arrested and 20 weapons seized in raids Tuesday in the Cairo slum district of Imbabah, another fundamentalist stronghold.

'Hizballah' Organization Uncovered in Alexandria

NC2303192493 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 17 Mar 93 p 4

[Report by Muhammad Hamdinu: "Attempt To Set Up a Hizballah Branch in Alexandria Aborted"]

[Excerpts] Despite the extensive presence of Islamic political groups in the city, particularly in the university, as well as the existence of several influential Islamic-oriented companies—especially in the contracting business—which all signs indicate play a prominent role in supporting these groups financially and morally, the city has been calm for almost a year, except for some individual incidents. However, these incidents went unnoticed by the public, thanks to the blackout imposed on them. Among these incidents, an explosive device was thrown at a restaurant in the Mahattat al-Raml area and another at a liquor store in the Muharram Bey area. But compared to other cities, the situation in Alexandria is, to borrow the security men's phrase, under control.

But in the past few days, security forces have mounted campaigns throughout the city leading to the arrest of 48 people, whom security sources said had set up a new religious organization called "Hizballah" and modeled after Lebanon's Hizballah. A quantity of weapons, ammunition, and leaflets have been found with the members, along with a number of maps of tourist and archaeological sites, which they planned to attack. Security sources noted that the members are connected to Lebanon's Hizballah as well as Iran. Some of the members have traveled abroad frequently, taking advantage of their travel to maintain the organization's links with its sources of finance and operation abroad. [passage omitted]

The defendants have been transferred to Cairo, where they are being questioned by the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, which ordered their remand. Large-scale search operations throughout the city have been carried out during which more than 100 activists from known extremist groups have been arrested, on the orders of the Interior Minister under Emergency Law, and transferred to Cairo.

Computer Files Show Members, Financing of al-Jihad

NC2303194393 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 17 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud al-Hadari]

[Excerpt] Security agencies on 14 March seized a computer along with 'Abd-al-Mun'im Jamal al-Din, official spokesman of al-Jihad Organization in Cairo. Examination of the computer discs has revealed the names of the organization's leaders and members as well as members of the "Afghan Egyptians" group [jama'at al-masriyun al-afghan]. The discs also contained lists of the recent aid received by the organization along with the names of some of the foreign and Arab quarters backing the activity of the extremist groups in Egypt.

AL-AHALI has learned that 45 of the members listed have been arrested and a search is under way for the rest. A senior official in the Public Security Department has stated that the data uncovered by the security agencies prevented a sabotage operation which the "Afghan Egyptians" had planned to carry out. Six of the organization members were arrested hours before they could carry out a major terrorist operation in the center of Cairo. [passage omitted]

IAEA Asked To Investigate Israeli Dumping

NC2303195593 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 17 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Egypt has asked the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to investigate reports that Israel is dumping nuclear wastes in the Negev Desert near the Egyptian border. An Egyptian official has said that the state authorities received confirmed reports that the Israeli Government is dumping nuclear wastes near the Dimona reactor, thus posing a threat to human, plant, and animal life. Egypt asked IAEA to strictly monitor Israel's dumping of nuclear wastes.

It is worth mentioning that IAEA is financing 50 percent of the costs of establishing the biggest plant for treating nuclear wastes in the Middle East, which is scheduled to open next January in Inshas.

Libya

Details of Currency, Banking Law Reported

LD2403101393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 23 Mar (JANA)—The General People's Congress formulated law No. 1 for 1993 concerning banks, currency, and credit, in implementing the decisions made by the Basic People's Congresses during their second ordinary session for 1401 AH, which corresponds to 1991. The decisions were formulated by the General Conference of the People's Congresses, People's Committees, trade unions, associations, and professional syndicates in their ordinary session during the period between 12-22 Dhi al Hijjah 1401 after the death of the prophet, which corresponds to 13-23 of June 1992. [passage omitted]

The second chapter of the law deals with commercial banks, their establishment and supervision, whereby Article 56 of the law specifies that Libya's Central Bank will undertake the supervision of commercial banks and will organize relations and coordinate between them and will follow up on their activities within the general policies of the state. [passage omitted]

Article 72 of the law specifies the necessity for banks to uphold the secrecy of their clients' accounts and balances and of all their banking operations. Banks must not allow anyone to see account details or to reveal or give information about them to anyone except through judicial permission.

Article 77 prohibits dealing in foreign currency and transferring currency from or to the Great Jamahiriyah.

It also prohibits transferring foreign currency commitments except under the conditions and circumstances specified by the administration board of Libya's Central Bank, or through the banks and other institutions licensed to do so by the bank.

Article 79 from the law specifies that all physical or corporate bodies other than public institutions, corporations, establishments, and companies have the right to keep all foreign currency they own or have in their possession in commercial banks and that this is in line with conditions and circumstances outlined by Libya's Central Bank. For those allowed to keep the foreign currency according to the former paragraph, they have the right to perform any foreign currency deals, including internal or external transfers, but transactions must take place via certified banks accredited with dealing in foreign currency. The bank would specify conditions for those leaving the country to take foreign currency out, while ensuring that no restrictions are put on taking out foreign currency that has been registered upon entry into the Great Jamahiriyah either through customs' declarations or bank transfers.

Sudan

Government Reportedly Leases Port Sudan to Iran

NC2303205593 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 22 Mar 93 p 15

[Report by Fayzah Sa'd]

[Excerpt] Iran added yet another item to its list of demands on Sudan in return for assistance to Khartoum when it asked the latter to receive a group of extremists and terrorists whose presence constitutes a burden on Tehran. Several hundred of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards have already arrived. They are headed by the new Iranian ambassador in Khartoum, who played a fundamental role in establishing Hizballah in Lebanon.

Sudanese sources note an Iranian ambition to control significant straits and outlets on the Red Sea in an attempt to establish a presence in the Gulf region. The ambition was enhanced in the wake of repeated emphasis by Gulf leaders that Gulf security concerns the Gulf states first and foremost, implying that these states reject an Iranian or any other presence in the region. Iran, for its part, is trying to encircle the Gulf and Egypt from the south and west, using Sudan as a base.

Two weeks ago, the Iranian chief of staff began a series of secret visits to Sudan to implement a set of agreements Tehran views as necessary, particularly after Tehran displayed little enthusiasm during the visit by the Sudanese chief of staff, who sought to obtain a returnable trust in the form of planes and long-range surface-to-surface missiles to be deployed in bases supervised by Iranians. The Iranians were to determine how and where these weapons were to be used.

An Iranian-Sudanese agreement was ratified, granting Iran the freedom to use the port of Port Sudan for a 25-year term that could be extended by further five-year terms with every new military agreement the two countries sign. The agreement is part of a plan to deploy a joint naval force of 25 units, furnished with an airport, in the Red Sea. According to the plan, Iranian submarines and Sudanese torpedo boats will be given the liberty to attack any foreign naval unit that enters the region. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Addresses Knesset on Security, Peace

TA2203153993 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1433 GMT 22 March 93

[Address by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, to the Knesset—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Knesset members [MK's]: I do not deny that this was a month of bloodshed, with 10 Israelis—three soldiers and seven civilians—being murdered. Two civilians and one soldier were murdered inside the sovereign state of Israel; four—three civilians and one soldier—in the Gaza Strip; three in Judaea and Samaria, including two who were run down by a car, and regional defense unit reserves soldier from 'Aley Zahav in Samaria. There have been stabbings as well. I do not deny the facts, but had it not been for MK Qatzav's observation....[changes thought] Allow me to remind you: A total of 35 Jews were murdered on one bus 15 years ago this week. There has not been since or will ever be such mass slaughter again, and you know what government ruled at the time it happened. [prolonged catcalls by MK Rehav'am Ze'evi]

As I said, I would not have mentioned this event had it not been for the nature of MK Qatzav's remarks. Without any connection to the past, I understand the distress and the pain sensed by the public. I am not cut off. I understand the public's agony. Any attempt to ignore it would be a mistake. Yet, I suggest that we—Knesset members elected by the people and certainly myself—I agree with MK Qatzav that as prime minister and defense minister, I bear the responsibility—I suggest that we speak responsibly, although everyone has the right to level as harsh a criticism as he deems fit. Everyone can only speak of the truth as he sees it.

I was very sorry that the media reported I would not appear here today. I announced at yesterday's cabinet meeting that as prime minister and defense minister, I would never consider the possibility of not appearing here on behalf of the government.

Let us present the true picture, painful as it is. The Palestinian terror which exists as part of the conflict between the Palestinians and us has continued over the 100 years of Jewish settlement in Eretz Yisra'el. I will not discuss that. I will discuss the problem as it is today, although it has exacerbated since the outbreak of the intifadah. We are in the midst of a confrontation initiated by Palestinians from the territories. Let us speak the truth: This is a confrontation between two different entities—different theologically and politically—and we could say nationally. When intifadah erupted, the violent confrontation started out as popular insurrection; then it continued as terrorist activity by all the diverse Palestinian organizations, which have led and are leading this violent confrontation. Let us be candid: The majority of the Palestinian public identify with these organizations and with their objectives; a great many of the Palestinians are motivated to pursue this confrontation—a confrontation between 1.8 million Palestinians in the territories and the state of Israel.

I would like to dwell on the complexity of this confrontation. It does not resemble the wars Israel has waged against the armies of Arab countries. Those were wars between armies with clear boundaries, with weapons used in accordance with internationally acknowledged rules, with changes—in the case of the Arab armies, unfavorable ones. The boundaries are unclear in this case. This is not a war between armies. This is a war between terrorist organizations assisted and supported by the majority of the Palestinian population in the territories...[changes thought] The boundaries are unclear because of the reality in Israel, which is inhabited by 5 million Israeli citizens—over 4 million Jewish citizens and the rest non-Jewish citizens. Some 100,000 to 120,000 workers from the territories cross daily into the territory of the sovereign state of Israel. There is freedom of movement in Judaea and Samaria. There are certain limitations on the freedom of movement in the Gaza Strip. Thus, there is freedom of movement and there are unclear boundaries.

In Judaea and Samaria, there is Jewish settlement on which governments have decided. In Gaza, there are 750,000 Palestinians and some 4,000 Israelis. [catcalls]

In Judaea and Samaria, excluding greater Jerusalem, there are 100,000 Israelis versus 800,000 or 900,000—some say even more—Palestinians. Boundaries are unclear. Movement is free from everywhere to everywhere. There is hardly any control, with the possible exclusion of some places in Gaza, from which 30,000 to 40,000 workers cross daily into Israel.

Moreover, by the force of Israeli and international law, we as a military government bear the responsibility for the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We are responsible for all the inhabitants, and naturally, under the circumstances and without any connection to any political disagreements, we are responsible for the safety of the Jewish settlers in those areas. In these circumstances, in view of the motivation and the solidarity of most of the territories' residents with the goals of terrorist organizations, conditions favorable for the rise of terrorism have been created. There is no separation between the sovereign Israeli territory and the Palestinians of the territories. [catcalls]

I have said as much in the past. Our objective is to get Gaza out of Tel Aviv by means of an accord and not by unilateral withdrawal. [catcalls]

This government has a mandate and a policy. Its policy is to promote peace negotiations with the Arab states. As for the problem we are discussing here, we will pursue negotiations with the Palestinian residents of the territories in the framework of rules established at the Madrid conference on the basis of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, which stipulated two-phased progress. [catcalls]

If I am not mistaken, that letter was received by a different government. I am saying that the only way to resolve our differences with the Palestinians is by sitting around the negotiating table.

Our second policy, which is parallel to making peace, will be to wage a ruthless war on terrorism with every means permitted by Israeli law. The Israeli Defense Force [IDF] is not bound by any political constraints. That is a base lie! A base lie! A base lie! [catcalls]

You were in power for two years. MK Qatzav, MK Zvulun Hammer, and MK Refa'el Eytan, you were in power for two years and three months. Did you quash the intifadah? Did you eradicate terrorism? [catcalls]

I am convinced that the peace negotiations will resume on 20 April and that the Palestinians will attend. Nevertheless, we struck a blow against terrorism that no government had dared carry out for 22 years. No government had ever dared to temporarily deport—even for one year—415 leaders of the terrorist organizations. Did you ever dare to do that? Did you even try? [catcalls]

Even what I agreed to was something you never dared to do! [catcalls]

The war against terrorism must be comprehensive. Today, this war is limited only by the law. I will give you one example: We issued a demolition order against the home of the murderer of Mr. Biton, may he rest in peace. An appeal was submitted to the High Court of Justice, and the demolition was prevented. [catcalls]

I have met all the military commanders, and I spoke at the scene in Jabalyah with the company commanders of a Nahal Brigade battalion which lost one of its soldiers there and which has been the target of five shooting attacks over the past four months, one of which ended tragically. I listened to what the commanders said. They are excellent soldiers, and they are carrying out their mission. [catcalls]

There are no constraints on the IDF or on the other security forces! I would like to express my deepest appreciation here today for the IDF soldiers and commanders, the police, the Border Police, the Shin Bet, and all the other security forces. What enterprise and initiative they have shown in this struggle! What sacrifice and readiness! Their hands are bound only by the law, the laws that were set by the state of Israel and the Supreme Court! We are a state of laws. [catcalls]

As for the security situation in the territories: We sent reinforcements in a long time ago, the special units have been proven to be effective, and we implemented methods that have aroused international criticism by refusing to let soldiers from these units risk their lives by entering houses where armed terrorists could be hiding. Instead, we fired antitank missiles and blew up the houses after all the civilians had been evacuated. Yes, we dearly wish to maintain our humanity while fighting terrorists, but we also want to protect the lives of our soldiers. The above method, together with others, was put into practice to combat the hard core of terrorists, to capture them, hurt them, and reduce their numbers. Look at what has happened in Judaea and Samaria recently. This does not prevent terrorism. The number of wanted men has dropped from 400 to less than 100. Hundreds of fugitives have turned themselves in or been captured, but this is not the end of terrorism. I do not enjoy presenting this picture; however, you should not present proposals and claims that have no basis in reality. There is no magic formula to eliminate terrorism. This is a continuous and protracted war, and the side that can endure all the ups and downs, while the political negotiations continue, will be the one to emerge triumphant. We are working to upgrade our means, improve our methods, and add more reinforcements and special forces. I hope that today's cabinet decision will also augment the number of border policemen and regular policemen in the territories, as this is something that was demanded by all the military commanders. We will do everything possible within the framework of the war against terrorism waged by the IDF, the police, Border Police, Shin Bet, and other security services. We will try to reduce the number of Palestinians from the territories employed in Israel by combining a negative and a positive approach. I was pleased to see that my predecessor, the defense minister in the previous government, had taken initial steps in this direction. That was the correct approach, and it should be encouraged. We must bring about a situation where additional investments which do not come from Israel are invested in the territories, a situation where more Palestinians work there and less inside Israel. This will improve security and may also help fight unemployment. This is not a purely negative approach but a combination of both positive and negative elements. I discovered that work had begun on industrial zones in the territories. This work is now being stepped up. We are also expanding roads. We are holding more contacts relating to investment in the territories. [catcalls]

This does not come from Israel's budget. This comes from the Civil Administration's budget, and I ordered that this budget be made public. [catcalls]

I would like to say that the three murders, as well as other events which occurred on sovereign Israeli territory this month, undoubtedly call for an evaluation of the situation. It should be remembered that all these things were perpetrated by Palestinians from the territories who either work here or take advantage of the freedom of movement. [catcalls]

That includes Jerusalem, as well. I do not doubt that we have a serious problem on our hands. Closing the territories and barring the entry of Palestinian workers into Israel poses a difficult problem, and ensuring 100-percent security as long as they work here is an equally difficult problem. [catcalls]

When I say Israel, I refer to greater Jerusalem as well.

Therefore, the following steps must be taken: the Israeli public should understand that this is an ongoing war; it should show endurance; it should translate its rage into positive action, such as volunteering for civil defense service. [catcalls]

In 1974, when I was prime minister, 140,000 Israelis joined the civil defense; today, there are less than 50,000 members.

I repeat: The problem does not consist only of what the government does. We have always been a fighting and a toiling nation. We should go on being that. Demands should be made of the public, as well. Not everything can be done through orders, regulations, and edicts. [catcalls]

Now to the second point: Let us take today as an example. The state of Israel has decided that there should be a guard at the entrance to every school and that the guards will be armed in Jerusalem. Had the guard been armed and had he stood at the entrance as required, today's stabber would have received his due. [catcalls]

Things planned and initiated by the state should be carried out the way they were envisaged. I want the public to be alert and responsive because even if we add 1,000 or 2,000 policemen, we will be unable to place a policeman on every corner to ward off stabbers. The Israeli public must become again what it used to be: a fighting nation; a coping nation; a nation that knows that this confrontation will be won by those who do not tire easily, those who do not scare easily, those able to prevail. Demands should be posed to the people as well! [catcalls]

We have decided to beef up the police and the Border Police in a bid to offer more safety because with more policemen, the forces will be able to get to places faster. [catcalls]

With reference to the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, I would like to say this: Prior to my departure for the United States, the Gan Or secretariat asked for a meeting with me in the wake of the murder of a member of the settlement. I met with the seven members of their secretariat, and let me tell you, I admired that group. They showed responsibility, concern for security, knowledge that despite the political disagreement between us, we are not divided on what steps are necessary for their security. [catcalls; MK Landau is expelled from the plenum]

I wish to say that inside of two weeks, they agreed to have a fence erected around Gush Qatif and to employ manpower other than Arabs from the territories. Ask the secretariats of these settlements what other government has ever responded to their concrete problems.

The same will be done in Judaea and Samaria. There is no connection between our political disagreements and our responsibility for security. At the same time, just as I told Israelis living near the Lebanese border: You have chosen to live here, although you knew there was higher risk here—I will say the same to those who settled in Judaea and Samaria—and there are many who settled there for ideological reasons: They should know that there is higher risk there than elsewhere, including Bat Yam and Tel Aviv. [catcalls]

We will solve the concrete problems of the components of their security, which remained unsolved until now.

To sum up, I will say: True, these are difficult times. I am confident, however, that the government's approach coupling peace negotiations based on the government's stands with war on terrorism waged within legal parameters, together with additional steps we will take and others we will demand of the public—all these will help us to see our way through these difficult times, and in 1993, we will witness a significant change—both in the sphere of politics and security.

I propose that the motions of no-confidence be removed from the Knesset agenda.

Weizman Elected President; To Assume Post 13 May

TA2403123093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Excerpts] We open with the news that Israel has a new president: 'Ezer Weizman. The war hero who became a politician and switched his political allegiance from right to left, was chosen the seventh president of Israel by the Knesset in a vote that produced at least one big surprise. In the house, when 'Ezer Weizman defeated Dov Shilansky, was reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] As so often happens in the Knesset, the expected is indeed what happened in the end; it just took a long time. In the results of the second round announced a short while ago, 'Ezer Weizman defeated Dov Shilansky 66 to 53 with one abstention. But what began as an honorable ceremony going according to strict protocol, turned into a fiasco. The results of the first round were disqualified because while there are only 120 members of Knesset, 124 votes were counted. [passage omitted]

It was not pretty. Still, 'Ezer Weizman is to become Israel's seventh president come May 13th. The Likud has issued a statement saying it has sent its wishes of congratulations to 'Ezer Weizman, and believes he will serve as the representative of the entire nation. [end recording]

'Ezer Weizman refused to answer any political questions. He would not say whether as president he will continue to advocate negotiations with the PLO. He would not reply to those critics who say he represents the dovish left and not the national consensus. [passage omitted]

Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, immediately congratulated 'Ezer Weizman.

[Begin Basyuni recording] It gives me a great pleasure to congratulate Mr. 'Ezer Weizman as the president of Israel, and I wish him a fruitful and useful mission and I hope during his time we will achieve the comprehensive peace in our area. I think Mr. Weizman is well known as the architect of the peace process between Egypt and Israel, and I think he will be also helpful to achieve the comprehensive peace in our area. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 24 March adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin congratulated 'Ezer Weizman on behalf of the government and himself, and said that Weizman had become president at a time of great opportunities and considerable dangers. These possibilities, Rabin said, involved tough decisions that could arouse disagreements among the public, and Weizman's task would be to unite the Israeli people and resolve any internal dissension. Our relationship has known ups and downs, Rabin noted, but we always made sure to put the public interest before anything else."]

Rabin Bureau Denies Golan Withdrawal Remarks

TA2403110693 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] The prime minister's bureau yesterday denied categorically Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon's remarks of 22 March. Sharon said that when asked by Clinton about the possible scope of Israel's withdrawal in the Golan, the prime minister allegedly replied that the withdrawal would be "almost to the last inch."

Says U.S. Deportee Agreement Valid

TA2403121493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Studio talk between anchorman Shalom Qital and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Qital] Reacting to reports from the United States that Israel had promised to make progress on the deportee affair and on the interim solution in the territories if the Arabs agreed to attend the next round of peace talks, sources at the prime minister's bureau today asserted that the agreement signed between Israel and the United States on the deportee affair was still valid and binding. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports.

[Raz] If we are to explain the reactions from the prime minister's bureau, then it appears that the reports emanating from the United States either constitute absolutely nothing new at the very best while at the very worst they are totally inaccurate. The sources referred to the agreement signed between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This agreement has several clauses. It stipulates the establishment of review committees to reexamine the files of all the deportees. The agreement calls for the immediate return of 101 deportees while the deportation terms of the rest were shortened by one-half; something that would bring all the deportees back by the end of 1993. Israel and the United States also reached an understanding regarding the return of long-standing deportees. This agreement remained valid and binding, and there is no intention to cancel it. I heard this from the highest sources in the prime minister's bureau.

It should be noted that the review committees have already begun working, and one can safely assume that when, either due to political exigencies, or in the interests of the peace process, an announcement will be required that the committees have completed their work and that some more deportees can be returned, the committees will be ready. The things Israel allegedly promised, such as making progress on the deportee affair and the interim arrangements, were attributed to a senior U.S. official. As we noted before, there is nothing new in these reports. It should be recalled that when, following Secretary of State Christopher's visit to Israel, senior American and Israeli officials held several press briefings for both Israeli and U.S. correspondents, a senior and authorized Israeli official said that Israel would be willing to implement additional goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians in the territories if progress was made in the peace process and if the next round of talks opened as scheduled. Thus, a certain linkage was created between the continuation of the talks and additional goodwill gestures. This perhaps, was the basis for the reports of the U.S. official's remarks, which also mentioned progress toward interim arrangements in the territories. This is how the situation stands, and in order to make things perfectly clear in summation: in the best case, these reports add nothing new, with the only other alternative being that they are simply inaccurate.

Arab Sources Report on Rabin Pledge Not To Deport

TA2403100493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by correspondent Shmu'el Segev from Toronto]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has given the U.S. Administration "a personal pledge" to abstain from further deportations of Palestinians, but the PLO—with the support of Arab countries—demands that Rabin make a public statement reaffirming this pledge.

Senior Arab and Palestinian sources in North America revealed that they have been informed by the U.S. Administration of Rabin's "personal pledge" made during his visit to Washington.

An Arab country ambassador, who was privy to the contacts which led to the Rabin-Christopher arrangement designed to expedite the return of deportees, has told DAVAR: "In ordinary circumstances, we would have settled for Rabin's personal promise. We know him to be a man of honor, and we believe he will keep his

word, but unfortunately, Rabin himself has declared publicly that his arrangement with the United States does not preclude further deportations in the future. Since this is the situation, the Palestinians have no choice but to insist that Rabin publicly withdraw his remarks. Look at what happened to Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi in the Gaza Strip. If the Palestinian delegation cannot show that it has solved the deportees problem once and for all, the delegates will be assassinated, one by one, by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]."

Reliable Arab diplomatic sources have said, however, that the Arab countries' reluctance to confirm their arrival in Washington on 20 April is unconnected with the Arab foreign ministers' meeting due to convene in Damascus on 28 March. Rather, it stems from their desire to take advantage of the prime minister's distress in a bid to obtain the following further concessions from the United States and Israel:

—U.S. reaffirmation that there will be no deviation from the "Madrid format," and that all the U.S. commitments specified in a memorandum of understanding with Arab countries and the Palestinians remain valid.

—Israeli assent to a formula creating explicit linkage between the autonomy negotiations and the territories' final status.

—If Israel persists in its objection to the establishment of a legislative assembly in the territories, a formula enabling the sovereignty on state land and water sources to be transferred from the Israeli authorities to the autonomy administration should be agreed on.

Police Treat Shooting of Arab at Susya as Murder

TA2403060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The police are considering yesterday's shooting of an Arab by a settler at the settlement of Susya as a case of murder. The Arab, who had earlier stabbed another settler, was shot dead when his hands and feet were bound. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin Weiss recording] Thirty-year-old Yoram Shkolnik from the settlement of Ma'ale Hever was detained by police at Susya yesterday shortly after the shooting. A police official said that Shkolnik is not cooperating with investigators but the police have determined that the shooting is a case of murder. [passage omitted]

Off the record, police officials said they believe the shooting was a revenge killing. [passage omitted] Yesterday, the police named the Arab victim as 20-year-old Musa Sulayman Abu-Sabha from the Hebron area village of Yattah. He has been wanted by the security forces for more than three years, suspected of participating in disturbances and throwing stones. [end recording]

In Hebron, a firebomb was thrown at an Army jeep, causing slight damage when it burst into flames after landing on the hood of the vehicle. No one was injured.

A Palestinian terrorist who stabbed Beni Ilan from Moshav Tequma a year ago has been sentenced to 18 years in prison. The Beersheba District Court ruled that Ruman al-'Aydi from Gaza acted from a nationalistic motive. The judges said they imposed a heavy sentence in light of the escalating terrorism.

Youth Killed as Troops Clash With Stone Throwers

TA2403092193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] In Nabulus this morning, an 18-year-old youth was killed when IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers fired at a group of stone throwers.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an Israeli bus was pelted with large rocks. The soldiers accompanying the bus ordered the stone throwers to halt, and fired at them after their command was ignored. The youth was killed by the shots. His body was later snatched from the hospital in Nabulus. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

Thwarted Plan To Attack Tourists in Petra Reported

JN2303200793 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 23 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Authorized government sources have denied that the competent authorities apprehended a group of "fundamentalists" in al-Zarqa' on charges of forming an armed organization. Meanwhile, AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that the reports regarding the arrest of two persons who were attempting to smuggle arms into Jordan are true. On 2 February, the border police thwarted an attempt to smuggle arms into Jordan via the al-Ramthah border post [on the Jordan-Syria border]. The arms seized were hidden inside a car bearing Lebanese license plates. Machine guns and explosives were found hidden inside the car's spare tire. The reports indicated that the two persons who were in the car belong to Hizballah-Palestine, an organization that maintains ties with the Lebanese Hizballah organization. The reports added that the two persons apprehended were planning to attack a tourist bus in Petra during the 20 February visit to Jordan by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. The competent authorities informed the U.S. Embassy that this terrorist plan had been thwarted. However, U.S. officials used the issue to warn U.S. tourists against visiting Jordan—a development which created dissatisfaction within Jordanian Government quarters. These quarters deemed the U.S. reaction an unjustifiable exaggeration of matters that blew things out of proportion, particularly since the whole attempt was aborted.

In a related development, Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi denied in a telephone conversation with AL-MUSTAQBAL that the Islamic Jihad movement had anything to do with this operation or with either of the two apprehended persons. He added that protecting national security and entrenching stability in Jordan is a top priority for his movement.

King Husayn, Russian Envoy Discuss Peace Process

JN2303160193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Today, at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty King Husayn received Viktor Posuvalyuk, personal envoy of the Russian leadership. Posuvalyuk relayed to his majesty the king the greetings of the Russian leadership as well as its enormous appreciation of the wise policy being pursued by his majesty the king and the special role Jordan is playing in the region.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed Jordan's concern for promoting bilateral ties, which are based on trust, frankness, and clarity, particularly at this tumultuous phase being witnessed in the world. His majesty the king indicated that the prime cause of regional instability lies in the failure to resolve the Palestine question and recognize the Palestinians' national rights as well as their continued suffering, not to mention the unjustifiable repression and violence directed against them by the Israeli occupation authorities.

His Majesty King Husayn underscored the comprehensive solution and affirmed the need for the cosponsors of the peace process to intervene to surmount the difficulties Israel is laying in the way of the desired political solution, which must be based on justice and right.

During the meeting, his majesty the king and the Russian envoy affirmed the need to hold consultations on regional and international issues between the two friendly countries. They also reiterated the immense role Russia can play to contribute to peace and stability and stressed that efforts must be undertaken to maintain, enhance, and strengthen bilateral ties. Furthermore, they expressed a willingness to engage in all aspects of bilateral cooperation, drawing on the positive legacy nurtured by the two countries. They also affirmed the need to resume the peace process and seize the exceptional opportunity currently available to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question—a solution that future generations could accept and defend.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the Russian envoy to relay his warm greetings to the Russian leadership as well as his wishes of prosperity and progress to the Russian people.

The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki and the Russian ambassador to Jordan.

Foreign Minister Meets With Palestinian Officials

JN2303125593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir this morning received Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian negotiating team. The officials reviewed current contacts regarding the expellee issue, especially in light of the invitations to resume peace negotiations in Washington on 20 April.

Dr. Abu-Jabir also exchanged views with Mr. al-Husayni on the coordination meeting of Arab ministers participating in the negotiations, which will be held in Damascus on 28 March.

The meeting was also attended by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Leaves for Portugal on Private Visit

JN2303125993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir left Amman for Portugal this morning on a several-day private visit. He was seen off at the airport

by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister; Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir; and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Fadlallah 'Id al-Fitr Sermon Views Noted

NC2403120093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] On the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah led worshipers in prayers at the al-Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd this morning and delivered a sermon stressing the need for Lebanese to work to create a new Lebanon based on reality, not dreams. Everyone must try to shape their future in a free and just country.

He added: Let us fight Israel and world arrogance together; let us face ignorance and backwardness together; let us work so Lebanon will be a homeland for its people, not for those who create problems and try to make the Lebanese destroy each other.

Fadlallah also discussed the hostages. He criticized the government, saying: Why did it talk with the entire world about the release of the Western hostages when it is not talking to anyone about the release of the Lebanese hostages. We regard them as being kidnapped, regardless of whether they were kidnapped from their homes or while fighting the enemy.

Regarding the negotiations, Fadlallah said that the United States is not an arbiter in the settlement negotiations. It sent messages to officials of the cordon states to warn them, place limits on them, and make them choose between war and negotiations. He added that the Arabs have lost their political, military, or security balance.

Referring to the deportees, Fadlallah said the entire world called for human rights when there were Western hostages; however, now it says nothing about the right of the deportees to return to their homes.

SLA Releases 16 Prisoners for 'Id al-Fitr

TA2303085693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The SLA [South Lebanese Army] released 16 prisoners from the al-Khiyam prison in the security zone this morning. General Antoine Lahd, commander of the SLA, says this act was a goodwill gesture on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan. The released prisoners, among them two women, had been convicted of aiding Hizballah terrorists.

Prisoner Said Taking Message to Hizballah

NC2303132093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has released 16 detainees on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. The 17th detainee, who was released but whose name was not announced, is from Jba'. Unlike his colleagues, he will depart via Kafr Hunah crossing point on the Jazzin-Bisri road. Our security correspondent said that this detainee is carrying a message to Hizballah on a major plan for the exchange of kidnapped people between Hizballah and the SLA and the Israeli forces.

SLA Soldiers Wounded by Bomb; Shelling Begins

TA2303211293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Three SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were wounded in south Lebanon when a roadside bomb exploded. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the three were driving in a civilian car in the eastern sector of the security zone, when a roadside bomb went off near them. One of the soldiers was taken by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa, while the other two were taken to another hospital. The SLA and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have begun shelling terrorist targets.

Israeli Helicopters Raid 'Arab Salim

NC2403064893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0619 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] A short while ago, our correspondent reported that at 0803 today, Israeli helicopters raided the outskirts of 'Arab Salim in the south. Our correspondent said the helicopters have fired three rockets as of his report.

Last night Israeli military aircraft overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights and the area east of Sidon, dropping flares.

Israeli forces used large-caliber machine guns to rake the heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Luwayzah, Jarju', and the eastern neighborhood of Kafr Tibnit. Israeli helicopters also raked the al-Litani River basin. These measures were carried out after three South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were wounded when an explosive charge went off inside the border strip. A Hizballah statement said the explosion was carried out in retaliation for the killing of two Hizballah fighters in a clash north of the border strip last Monday. Israeli and SLA artillery shelled resistance targets in retaliation for the attack.

Earlier, Israeli helicopters fired four rockets at hills located about 2 km southwest of the Palestinian deportees' encampment in Marj al-Zuhur.

SLA Soldiers Reportedly Killed

NC2403074893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] On the eve of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr and to emphasize the harmony of struggle and faith, a group of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive charge near an agent South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol near the al-Rayhan-'Aramta road at 1830 yesterday, destroying the vehicle and killing its occupants.

Our correspondent in Sidon reported yesterday evening that Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over the Palestinian refugee camp in Sidon, and over Tyre, al-Nabatiyah, and Iqlim al-Tuffah, dropping flares over these areas.

IAF Raids Bases North of Security Zone

TA2403091593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that Israel Air Force [IAF] planes this morning attacked terrorist bases north of the security zone in south Lebanon. All the Israeli planes returned safely to base. This was reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Government Said Ready To Normalize Israeli Relations

TA2303143693 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 22 Mar 93 p 9

[Text] The Syrian leadership sent a detailed memorandum to the Israeli leadership explaining its stance on peace and withdrawal from the Golan Heights. A diplomatic source has told AL-MANAR that in this memorandum Damascus expressed a readiness for immediate normalization of relations and a summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Damascus sent a copy of this memorandum to Washington. The Israeli leadership is currently studying the Syrian memorandum carefully, and, subsequently, practical steps will be taken toward signing a peace agreement between Damascus and Tel Aviv.

Radio Says Israel Should Solve Deportee Problem

JN2203175893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Following his return from Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced that the U.S. Administration intends to continue extending military and economic assistance to Israel as a demonstration of its realization of the risks that peace will bring to Israel in the future.

This means that Rabin has returned from Washington with guarantees of what Israel will reap from the United States after the attainment of peace at a time when there is nothing to guarantee that such a peace will be realized in light of what is taking place on the ground in the Arab territories, in particular.

It seems that Rabin's government is fully aware of what it is doing. After it received the price of peace in advance, represented in U.S. promises and pledges of continued economic and military support in return for alleged risks that have not taken place—this government of Rabin now feels that it is free to tighten its repressive measures in the occupied territories.

Though Rabin is trying to justify his escalating repressive measures against the Palestinians as an answer to the anti- occupation activities, the reality is that behind this mounting repression there is a studied Israeli design that is being accurately implemented. Perhaps, one of the objectives of this design is to obscure the deportee issue, which Israel fabricated and through which it prevented the resumption of the peace talks for a few months, though this attempt has not, and will not change the fact that the deportee issue has been, and will continue to be an obstacle to the peace process.

Israel also wants to disavow any commitment not to resort to deportation in the future under the pretext of the deteriorating security situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hence, at a time when we call for an end to the continuous bloody chain of terrorism against our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories, we emphasize the importance of reaching a solution to the Palestinian deportee issue in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799, and the need to remove this obstacle from the path of the peace process. We also emphasize the importance of securing guarantees that no deportation will take place in the future so that deportation will not be a weapon that the Israeli occupation authorities use whenever they want to empty the occupied territories from their inhabitants, on the one hand, and to obstruct the peace process with the aim of aborting it, on the other.

The whole world is now aware that Israel is the cause of the escalating violence in the occupied Arab territories, and that this violence further exasperates the situation, and certainly does not contribute to making the ground suitable for the resumption of talks, not to mention the obstacle concerning the deportees.

If Israel fails to abandon these brutal practices and respond to the call for solving the deportee issue, it will be the duty of the international community and Washington, in particular, to force Israel to do so as a demonstration of concern for the peace process, and out of fear that the continuation of these Israeli practices will abort the sole opportunity for peace made available by Madrid conference.

Press Views U.S. Ties With Israel, Peace Role

JN2103091793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today under the headline "The Losing Partnership" on the results of Yitzhaq Rabin's talks in Washington, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Rabin has expressed satisfaction with his Washington visit, which has resulted in the consolidation of the strategic partnership and a promise for continued and growing U.S. military and financial support. However, Rabin offered the Americans nothing in return in terms of advancing the Middle East peace process.

TISHRIN believes that lavishing U.S. aid on Israel does not serve U.S. interests, and that Israel's successive rulers, including Rabin, have seriously damaged the U.S. reputation and role as a superpower that is supposed to defend human rights and UN principles, conventions, and resolutions.

TISHRIN adds: No American politician is unaware of the fact that Israel has failed to respect any UN resolution, that it has violated the most basic human rights, and that it has seriously breached the Geneva conventions. Moreover, during his stay in the United States, Rabin directed the occupation forces and groups of settlers to launch a large-scale terrorist war against the

Palestinian citizens under occupation. Not a single day passes without dozens of people being wounded or killed by Israeli gunfire.

TISHRIN asks: What has the United States benefited from this strategic partnership? If it has won Israel, it has lost the friendship of 200 million Arabs.

TISHRIN affirms that every patriotic American admits that the current partnership has benefited Israel and harmed the United States, and that the double standard policy has destroyed the credibility of the United States and provoked millions of people aspiring for freedom, justice, and equality. In accordance with the partnership agreement, the United States has become captive to the Israel policy, not vice versa.

TISHRIN says that Rabin has exploited the World Trade Center blast in New York and the rhetoric on the danger of Islamic fundamentalism. It has not yet been ruled out however that Israeli fingers were behind that blast.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Arabs are looking forward to an equal friendship with the United States based on respect for international principles, laws, and covenants. The Arabs have shown every response to the past and current U.S. Administrations in order to reach a just, comprehensive settlement in the Middle East based on the principle of trading land for peace. Syria has offered specific proposals which have received international support. Only Israel has undermined all exerted efforts. The final question is: How can the United States be a full, effective partner and an honest party if it gives precedence to its strategic partnership with Israel over the cause of peace?

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH asks why there should be appeasement? The serious Israeli escalation in the occupied Arab territories should have drawn worldwide anger and indignation, and prompted a swift world action to put an end to the Israeli crimes and save hundreds of thousands of defenseless Palestinians who are facing an organized war of extermination unparalleled in man's contemporary history.

AL-THAWRAH says it is difficult to find a single Palestinian family without one of its members martyred, wounded, detained, or deported. Nevertheless, so far, we have not seen any appropriate international action. In an obvious paradox, while Israel is committing massacres, defying UN resolutions, and breaching heavenly values and norms, there are influential states which turn a blind eye to all this. Moreover, these states often try to appease Israel and justify its practices. This raises doubts about the credibility of these states and results in a loss of confidence in their supposed role as an impartial, fair broker in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says: Is it not strange that the escalation of the Israeli repression in the occupied Arab territory coincides with Rabin's recent visit to Washington and his return from it carrying U.S. promises to increase support for Israel and promote cooperation with it in various economic, military, and political fields? It appears that the U.S. Administration is rewarding Israel for its breaching of human rights.

AL-THAWRAH says in conclusion that this U.S. assistance will encourage Israel to persist in rejecting peace and will result in increasing its intransigence and creating further obstacles to the resumption of the talks. Why then this reward, which does not serve the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East?

Clinton Stance Seen as 'New Obstacle' to Peace

PM2303142593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Mar 93 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ulstuwani: "Syria Expresses Disappointment at Clinton's Statements"]

[Text] Damascus—Responsible Syrian sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements have come as a disappointment to Damascus as preparations were underway for the resumption of the peace talks in Washington.

They said that what the U.S. President said after his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the contradiction between his statements and the supposed role of an honest mediator make Damascus pessimistic about the results of the forthcoming negotiations. The sources added that the stance taken by Clinton would be taken into consideration at the meeting of cordon states foreign ministers to be held in Damascus at the end of this month and could even affect the decision to respond to the U.S. call for the resumption of the negotiations, because the Arab states concerned with the peace negotiations must view these statements as a new obstacle in the peace process. The sources said that contacts would be held between Damascus and Washington on this matter.

'Sources' Concerned About Clinton Remarks to Rabin

PM2203153593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Mar 93 p5

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Dardari: "Damascus: Rabin Persuaded Clinton Administration To Link Resistance Against Occupation to Religious Extremism"]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian political sources have expressed concern and disappointment at the results of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington, where U.S. officials reaffirmed U.S.-Israeli security partnership to him. The sources said that the first results of the visit would appear in the form of measures by Rabin in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and that "the U.S.-Israel security partnership will have consequences that will affect pan-Arab security."

They believe that Rabin "was able to convince the U.S. Administration that resisting the occupation means

rejecting peace and, therefore, it is legitimate for Israel to use greater violence and terrorism against the Palestinian people and ultimately impose capitulation on the Arabs." The sources wondered: "Does the partnership concept mean the perpetuation of Israel's occupation of Arab territory on the pretext of security?" They pointed out that the results of Rabin's visit "run contrary to the assurances given by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher regarding his country's part in the peace negotiations. That raises serious questions about the role of full partner which Washington confirmed it would play in the next round of bilateral negotiations." The following are the most important points which aroused Syrian concern about the results of Rabin's visit and the statements made by U.S. President Bill Clinton after their meeting at the White House:

1. The language used by Clinton is reminiscent of that used by Ronald Reagan, particularly on "Israel's democratic role, the security partnership," and the revival of the strategic alliance between the United State and the Hebrew state, even though the current circumstances are completely different from the circumstances of the early eighties. The reaffirmation of strategic security partnership after the end of the cold war raises questions about the joint objectives of these two parties.

2. Rabin's talks in Washington focused on finding a role for Israel against the regional and Arab arsenals without broaching Israel's arms of mass destruction, especially its nuclear weapons, despite earlier Israeli fears that the U.S. Administration might raise that issue.

3. Rabin was able to persuade the U.S. Administration to link resistance against occupation to religious extremism and to make combating resistance a part of the U.S. strategy against extremism "which seeks to undermine the peace process," as Rabin says.

4. The continued American reference to "Israeli democracy" while the repression in the occupied territory escalates is an open encouragement to Israeli repressive policy.

5. In his reference to the peace terms Clinton upheld the Israeli terms, which are complete normalization with the Arabs without any reference to the territorial aspect. He did not mention the land-for-peace principle but stressed "minimizing Israeli security risks."

6. The U.S. President evaded the question of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights despite the American letters of assurance to the Arab parties about "guaranteeing the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people."

The Syrian sources say that the role of full partner "means honest neutrality; but what has been announced of the results of Rabin's Washington visit runs contrary to that."

Al-Asad Receives Telephone Call From King Husayn

JN2303114593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad last night received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During the telephone conversation, congratulations were exchanged on 'Id al-Fitr. Discussions also dealt with the next meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states [duwal al-tawq] in Damascus.

Afghanistan

Defense Chief on Problems With Iranian Minister

LD2303215693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Afghan Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud met our country's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Mr. Borujerdi in Kabul today. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts toward resolving Afghanistan's problems, and added: We wish that the bitter clashes and events in Kabul had never occurred, and we now hope that these clashes will end for ever.

Mr. Borujerdi noted that assisting Afghanistan in resolving its problems is a constant policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed that those harmed the most by these clashes are the inhabitants of Kabul.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister on Talks

LD2403113593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asian and Pacific affairs, who is currently in Kabul, gave a telephone interview to our correspondent at noon today on the outcome of his meetings with the jihad leaders of Afghanistan. During this interview he said: Implementation of the Islamabad accord and direct talks among the jihad leaders of Afghanistan will be the best solution to restore peace and security in this country. Referring to his meetings with President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] Secretary General Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mazari; Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and General Dostum, the head of the Islamic national movement in the northern region of Afghanistan, Mr Borujerdi said:

[Begin Borujerdi recording] The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] actively participated in the Pakistan sessions, which led to the signing of the peace accord. By inviting all the jihad groups to come to Tehran, it contributed toward a speedy implementation of the articles of this accord. Iran will pursue the matter in future too. The IRI is highly sensitive about the establishment of peace and stability in the neighboring country of Afghanistan. We hope that the current year, which has just begun, will be the year of removing the difficulties faced by our Muslim neighboring country of Afghanistan. We will not refrain from undertaking efforts in this connection. During the talks with His Excellency Prime Minister Hekmatyar, a report was submitted in the wake of the Jalalabad meetings on the composition of the cabinet. On the whole his excellency's views were that the leaders of various factions are happy with the course of the work. Although the problem of the Defense Ministry is not solved yet, the atmosphere of the sessions was mostly cordial. It was a very positive session. [end recording]

Bangladesh

Burma Denies Responsibility for Border Incident

BK2303131893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Dhaka, March 23 (AFP)—Burma on Tuesday denied responsibility for a recent border incident in which one Bangladeshi villager died and five were injured, saying that a rebel group was to blame, the official BSS news agency reported.

The report said Burmese Ambassador Soe Myint gave Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman a copy of a note from the Burmese Government saying the attackers belonged to the Arakan Army, an insurgent group that "clashed" briefly with Bangladesh Rifles border guards "on their way to Myanmar (Burma)."

The note said the insurgents had surrendered to Burmese authorities.

"Myanmar security personnel would not take any action which will be detrimental to the existing relations between (the) two neighbours," it added.

BSS said Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw handed over the original note during a meeting with Bangladesh Ambassador Mustafa Farooq Mohammad two days ago. That message also charged that the Dhaka press had reported the "incident in the wrong light and without verification."

On Sunday, Dhaka asked Rangoon to "clarify and verify" its position on last Friday's attack on a group of Bangladeshi villagers.

According to earlier reports from witnesses and security sources, 45 Lunthin Burmese border guards opened fire on a group of villagers in Bangladesh's Naikonchari area, about five kilometers (three miles) from the border with Burma.

However, Bangladeshi security sources said Sunday they were still investigating the incident and could not say if the "uniformed" attackers belonged to the Lunthin forces.

Meanwhile, the pro-government TELEGRAPH newspaper, quoting a Bangladesh border guard report, said Tuesday that Lunthin border guards were backed by the Burmese Armed Forces in Friday's attack.

It said the intrusion into Bangladesh was the result of a "coterie and differences of opinion" among Burma's ruling junta.

The attack "was either decided by the center or by the general in charge of" Burma's Arakan region, the newspaper said.

India

Pakistan's Sharif To Cooperate With Bombings Search

BK2403040293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] The Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has assured New Delhi of full cooperation in apprehending the criminals involved in the recent bomb blasts in Bombay. AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent reports that the Pakistan security agencies have also been asked to investigate whether the bomb blast suspects have reached Karachi from Dubayy. This follows a request sought for cooperation by the External Affairs Ministry to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

Our correspondent understands that the Pakistan security agencies have already begun scrutinizing the antecedents of all the recent arrivals to Karachi from Dubayy.

Singh Voices Concern Over Pakistan's Support to Separatists

BK2403081293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that the government on several occasions has expressed concern over Pakistan's support to terrorism in India and the nexus between terrorism and narcotics drug trafficking. Replying to questions, the minister of external affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh, said that the government has seen reports about a CIA study stating that Pakistan's military intelligence uses narcotics to fund separatist movement in India. He said, this issue is a part of a continuing dialogue and exchange of information between the government of India and the United States. Mr. Dinesh Singh said there is growing international concern at the support that the terrorists receive in Pakistan.

Answering another question, Mr. Dinesh Singh said the U.S. Administration for the present has decided not to name Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism. However, the U.S. Government has repeatedly told the Government of Pakistan that unless it took steps to prevent support to terrorism in India, Pakistan would run the risk of being named as state sponsor of terrorism.

U.S. Said Withholding Terrorist Information

BK2403045193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Mar 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Exchanging Intelligence"]

[Text] The travel advisory issued by the United States' State Department cautioning its citizens to avoid journeying to New Delhi reflects concern for its nationals' safety. But the warning, which will also serve to create panic, will not in any way contribute to the larger aim of combating terrorism in the entirety of its international outreach. Targets of terrorism, including countries like India and the US, share a basic interest in checking the spread of this menace which not only kills and maims people and destroys property but is totally antithetical to democratic politics, which both India and the United States practise. Indeed, at a time when terrorism is increasingly global in its reach and ramifications, democratic countries like India and the United States must cooperate closely in preventing slaughter and protecting the values and political methods they swear by.

It is very well for the US to issue a travel advisory, but what about sharing such information as it has with India? Such advisories are never the outcome of someone's fertile imagination, but carefully constructed after sifting facts, probabilities and fabrications. The US must, therefore, be in the possession of some vital intelligence, which, centred on Delhi, is of indispensable value to India. This it must share with India: India, which needs to drastically revitalise its intelligence agencies, enhance their resources, and rationalise their functioning, should on its part not only seek and welcome such assistance but underline, in all international fora, the need to wage relentless battle against global terrorism Such a battle is all the more necessary because, as travel and communication makes progress, it becomes easier for agents of terror to plot, organise and carry out their actions in any part of tht world. Amidst budgetary constraints, it is ever more difficult for governmental agencies to discharge their duties. In thi scenario, it is inevitable that agencies across the world pool resources, and data, in order to confront this threat.

The menace of internationalist messianic movements is one that will only grow, especially for countries like India and the US. These groups are trained, armed, and funded by certain states. One of them is Pakistan, which is currently under a 'close watch' by the State Department for evidence supporting the case against it. It appears peculiar, therefore, that the US simultaneously permits a US Army Special Forces team to hold military exercises with the Pakistan Army's Special Service Group (SSG). The skills shared with the SSG are bound to be most useful to terrorists spreading death and destruction in the Kashmir Valley, or the mountains of Algeria. A horizontal transfer of such skills must, therefore, be assumed for all practical purposes. It is surely not in US interests to allow such a thing to happen. In tackling terrorism, it is mandatory to isolate rogue nations, declared, or potential. That demands consistency, as much from the US, as it does from other states.

Iraqi Envoy Asks 'Indian Friends' for Medicine

BK2403105493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi, March 24 (AFP)—Iraq has appealed to "Indian friends" for donations of vital medicines which have become increasingly scarce at home, Iraq's top diplomat here said Wednesday.

"I am asking our Indian friends to supply us medicines," Charge d'Affaires Husham Ibrahim said, adding that he had drawn up a list of 35 drugs which were in short supply in his country because of a UN embargo.

Ibrahim said he had sent letters to "some prominent leaders" of India's ruling Congress (I) party but declined to name them. The PIONEER newspaper said Ibrahim's appeals had also reached voluntary groups.

"Many people are suffering because of acute shortages of medicines," he said. The diplomat said Baghdad had no money to buy them because of a squeeze on hard currency.

Ibrahim said that he had only received promises in response so far.

India initially sided with Iraq, a long-time ally, after it overran Kuwait in August 1990. But it later reversed its stand and supported the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi troops from the oil-rich emirate.

'Large Cache' of Arms Seized in Bombay

BK2403034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Bombay police have seized a large cache of arms including 12 AK-56 rifles, hand grenades, electric detonators, and live ammunition from two places at Sheikh Memon Street in Javeri Bazaar.

Making a statement in both Houses of the state legislature, the minister of state for home, Mr. Manek Rao Thackeray, said that the police have swooped down on Imami Manzil following a tip-off and recovered some arms. Later, police intercepted a hand cart on the nearby Ganesh Street and recovered some more sophisticated rifles, 9-mm revolvers, and a consignment of hand grenades.

The chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, in a written reply said in the state legislature that 100 petrol bombs, 15 country-made bombs, and 22 crude bombs were among the weapons recovered so far from the unauthorized settlement area at Darampara in North West Bombay during combing operations since December last.

Minister Discusses Bombay Blast Investigation

BK2403160793 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1501 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Statement by Dinesh Singh, minister of external affairs in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on 24 March, 1993 in regard to investigations abroad of suspects in Bombay bomb blasts]

[Text] Hon'ble members will have seen various reports in media in India and abroad regarding course of investigations concerning suspects involved in Bombay bomb blasts case.

External Affairs Ministry received information from investigating authorities that nine members of Memon family, all Indian nationals, were in UAE or Saudi Arabia and requested us to seek support of governments to apprehend them and make them available for investigation. Ministry took up matter with governments concerned immediately. Our request to UAE was made before departure of suspects from UAE. Reports appearing in media perhaps cautioned culprits and six of them were able to flee just in time.

From information so far available with us, there is confirmation that six members of Memon family, namely, Abdul Razak Suleman Memon, Mrs. Hanifa Memon, Yakub Abdul Razak Memon, Mrs. Rahin Memon, Essa Abdul Razak Memon, Yusuf Abdul Razak have flown from Dubayy to Karachi on March 17. We have sought cooperation of Pakistan Government in locating these persons and sending them back to India for questioning.

Suspects being Indian citizens, there is every expectation that all friendly governments will cooperate in tracing such persons for questioning by our investigating authorities. Absence of any formal agreements with any other country regarding extradition is no impediment to international cooperation in regard to persons wanted for crimes such as terrorism. I would like to add that we have received a great measure of cooperation from friendly government of UAE.

Criminal investigations are being conducted by investigating authorities and are not responsibility of External Affairs Ministry except when foreign countries are to be approached.

It is not advisable, while sensitive investigations are in progress with assistance of some friendly countries, to make any premature disclosure. We must also give an opportunity for quiet diplomacy to work through normal channels. Disclosures and speculations in media are not course government can adopt. It could be embarrassing to countries which are trying to assist us. However, I wish to re-assure hon'ble members that investigations are being pursued vigorously in all quarters concerned, requests for assistance have been made in a timely manner.

Intelligence Services Criticized for Bombay Blasts

BK2403064993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Mar 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Clodhoppers All"]

[Text] Several organisations are responsible for the failure to prevent last Friday's blasts in Bombay. Despite warning in writing in January by the Collector of Customs (Preventive), Bombay, about the possible landing of arms and explosives concealed in gold and silver contraband, neither the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence nor the marine and preventive wing of the customs, whose job it is to intercept contraband shipments,

could prevent the landing of 64 packages, which are being linked to the explosions, on the Alibag-Mora coastline in mid-February. Nor could the customs authorities seize these after landing. Far worse has been the performance of Bombay Police. Yakub Memon, described by the police as a notorious drug trafficker and reportedly hired by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for the explosions, had arrived in Bombay from Dubai soon after the 64-package consignment landed. Since preparations on a fairly large scale were required for last Friday's explosions, the plot could have been foiled had Memon been kept under adequate surveillance. Bombay Police failed not only to do that but even to prevent Memon and his family from escaping to Dubai after the explosions despite an alert to intensify vigil at all departure points.

Nevertheless, one cannot but be appalled by what the last Friday's explosions indicate about the ineptitude of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), which gathers intelligence abroad, and the Intelligence Bureau, which operates at home. Neither had any inkling of these despite the ISI's involvement in terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir, and the need for special vigilance in respect of Bombay after the December and January riots in the city. The Union Home Ministry, which depends on information from both, did no more than issue in February a bland warning against communal riots being engineered by the ISI during the month of Ramzan in Bombay, Ahmedabad and other sensitive places. While even the best intelligence agency cannot prevent terrorist outrages, few of them have done as poorly as the Indian ones.

Clearly, neither the RAW nor the IB [Intelligence Bureau] can be left in their present state since ISI-sponsored terrorism is likely to continue. The Estimates Committee of the Ninth Lok Sabha, under the chairmanship of Mr Jaswant Singh, had investigated the functioning of all intelligence agencies with a view to recommending measures for their improvement. The Lok Sabha was dissolved before the committee could submit its report. The present Estimates Committee which has inherited the information its predecessor had collected and has produced a report on the Ministry of Defence, has yet to table a report in Parliament on the intelligence agencies. One hopes that it does this soon as a streamlining of the intelligence agencies brooks no delay. The latter, however, can only happen if they are not frequently diverted from their legitimate activity to indulge in political skulduggery on behalf of the ruling party at the Centre. This in turn can be prevented only if they are made accountable to Parliament.

Jharkhand Separatist Issues Debated in Lok Sabha

BK2403103893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the Lok Sabha today that any decision on the Jharkhand issue will be taken only after the chief ministers concerned are taken into confidence. He said the demand concerns four states and there is no question of involving any politics in the matter. The home minister was responding to the demand by the JMM [Jharkhand Mutki Morcha] members that the Center should immediately take a decision on their demand for a separate Jharkhand state.

Raising the issue during the zero hour, Mr. Sibu Soren, JMM, alleged that the Bihar Government is adopting repressive measures to put down their agitation. He and another JMM leader, Mr. Suraj Mandal, cautioned that the agitation may take a violent turn if the long-pending demand of the people of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas is not met.

Janata Dal members said their party is not against the Jharkhand State if it comprises tribal regions of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal. They said the Center should immediately hold talks with all political parties concerned. Several members, including Janata Dal-A and RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] supported the demand for a Jharkhand state and accused the Bihar Government of using repressive measures against the agitationists.

At one time, the JMM members came to the well of the house to press their demand but went back to their seats when the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, asked them to do so. The government is in favor of a peaceful and mutually agreed settlement of the Jharkhand issue. Stating this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, said that the Government of Bihar has been advised to take all necessary measures to tackle the tense [as heard] economic blockade of the region.

Congress-I Spokesman on Leadership Meeting

BK2303125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has said members who spoke at yesterday's emergency session of the Working Committee depricated the tendency of some leaders to go to the press on party affairs. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the CWC [Congress Working Committee] disapproved the statement issued by [Human Resources Development Minister] Mr. Arjun Singh on Sunday and felt it is a violation of the resolution passed by the CWC at its last meeting. Mr. Gadgil said Mr. Arjun Singh clarified that the statement is not accusation against any person or office. Mr. Arjun Singh also said if any references in his statement gave this impression, directly or indirectly, the same are withdrawn.

Spokesman Says Crisis in Congress-I Party Over

BK2403100493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Interview with Congress-I Party spokesman V.N. Gadgil by unidentified Delhi Doordarshan TV correspondent on 23 March; place not given—recorded; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] has succeeded in defusing the crisis caused by Mr. Arjun Singh's controversial statement, with the human resources development minister withdrawing the objectionable references in it. In its marathon nine-hour meeting, which ended in the early hours today, the CWC disapproved [of] the statement. This was stated by the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil.

[V.N. Gadgil] The statement was discussed and it was disapproved by the Working Committee. The Working Committee said that it was in violation of the decision of the Working Committee taken on 9th of February that no Congress leader or Congress worker should rush to the press. Mr. Arjun Singh clarified that it was not an accusation of any person or office, and if any references in that statement are construed in that light, the statement is withdrawn. So the crisis was defused.

[Correspondent] Did you discuss any other issue such as one- man, one-post?

[Gadgil] Well, not directly, it was indirectly mentioned and Mr. Arjun Singh clarified that he has not raised that issue and he has already said that it is left to the prime minister to decide.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the crisis is entirely blown over?

[Gadgil] Yes, I think so. The atmosphere at yesterday's meeting was very frank and friendly and there were no heated exchanges and both sides clarified their statements. And with that affirmation in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao, both as Congress president and prime minister, I think the crisis is over.

CPI Rejects Proposal To Introduce More Democracy

BK2403071393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 93 p 9

[Text] Thrissur—The all-India conference of the Communist Party of India [CPI] on Sunday rejected an important amendment to the party constitution mooted by its 'reformist section'. The amendment pertained to organisational elections at all levels on the basis of "total panels".

If this proposal had been adopted, outgoing national or state executive or councils would, while proposing panels to replace them, have had to name excess members than needed to form the executive or council. This would have made conducting of secret ballots inevitable.

The reformists were aiming to pave the way for further democratising the formation of the party's decision-making bodies. The move was, however, met with stiff resistance from the central leadership, which is willing to allow only limited democratisation of the party's functioning.

In the final analysis though the reformist group succeeded in exhibiting its strength by mustering 108 votes for the amendment, as against 125 who opposed the change and five who abstained. Moreover, it obtained a victory of sorts when an amendment introducing a two-tier structure in the party in place of the present three-tier was passed. The group has been severely critical of the party leadership for failing to implement decisions taken at party congresses and by the central executive committee, and for not being able to expand the party base.

Although there was opposition to the suggestion, the steering committee left it to the delegates to vote on the issue. The majority—151—voted for the new system, while 96 voted against and three abstained.

The final resolution has given four months' time for the two-tie system to become operative. The amendment also stipulated that the State-level organisational.setup will follow the national pattern. The district set-up is not to be affected by the resolution.

The conference also empowered the party's national council to make consequential amendments in the party constitution on account of the amendments currently adopted by it. The national council of the party began its session in the morning to consider a political resolution dealing with developments in the country since the last session of the council in February. The resolution was adopted with minor changes.

During the discussion on the political resolution, the national leadership of the CPI came under sharp criticism from a section for its negative perception of the role of the Congress in the fight against communalism.

MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] and former agriculture minister V. V. Raghavan warned against the party leadership's tendency to bracket the Congress with the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] while reading the current political situation in the country.

While piloting the resolution, party general secretary Indrajit Gupta had said the Congress and the BJP are "two sides of the same coin". Referring to this, Mr Raghavan said the party would be making a grave error if it failed to correctly assess the history and the secular roots of the Congress despite vacillations of its leadership in fighting the BJP threat.

Mr Raghavan was supported by MLA and CPI national council member C. K. Chandrappan and party's

National Control Commission member K. V. Surendranath; who spoke on the resolution.

Mr Raghavan is a member of the party's state executive.

State secretary of the CPI P. K. Vasudevan Nair and assistant secretary Veliyam Bharghavan, however, defended t,he party's line that the Congress leadership was following a policy of appeasing the BJP.

Mr Raghavan and his suporters, however, did not press their views, and these did not find mention in the final resolution which was passed unanimously.

But a party spokesman told ENS [Express News Service] that the CPI national council would discuss the question of the Congress Party's attitude. It had earlier discussed the issue at its February meeting. Mr Gupta later told reporters that he did not see any need for the party to change its stand on the national scenario, As to whether his party was ready to work with the Congress in a joint anti- communal campaign, he claimed that "the Congress has ruled itself out of such a joint campaign by compromising with the BJP."

Further on Government Package for Punjab

BK2403045993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Mar 93 p 6

[Excerpt] New Delhi—The Government has evolved a three-point economic package to wean the misguided and unemployed youth of Punjab away from militancy.

The package includes providing employment to 50,000 youth annually and to make three-militancy prone districts of Punjab as "zero-unemployment" districts, the Home Minister, Mr S. B. Chavan, informed the Rajya Sabha. on Wednesday.

He said the Government had decided to set up a number of technical and educational centres in the State to impart training to the youth. [passage omitted]

Reduction in Armed Forces' Strength Discussed

BK2403072593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Mar 93 p 9

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi—The Indian army, for the first time ever, is likely to reduce its strength by about 5 divisions (nearly 65,000 troops).

This move has been egged more by budgetary constraints than any operational underpinnings or long-term strategic thinking in the absence of a national security policy, according to authoritative sources.

The manpower reduction process began in the late 1989 itself, when fresh recruitments into combat arms and logistics were minimised, unleashing command problems, which have increased by the day. While most of the 21 infantry regiments are already understrength it is the other arms which are facing enormous problems.

In the absence of a government decision to reduce existing formations ie. Order of Battle (ORBAT), the imbalance between recruitment and retirement has created situations where Jawans [soldiers] are refusing promotions. For instance, in certain artillery regiments, even after completing pensionable 15 years service, there is a waiting release list of 4 to 5 years for those who have taken promotions. While a jawan retires after 15 years, for a naik and havildar [ranks below soldiers] it is 21 and 24 years service, respectively.

While reducing the army ORBAT by 5 divisions (about 45 infantry battalions, 5 artillery brigades and other components) or 2 corps will help overcome problems created by existing reduced strengths, frozen budgetary allocations and even extraneous factors like repeated suggestions by influential US think-tanks that the army size be cut in keeping with the worldwide armed forces retrenchment phenomenon, it will bring its own stock of problems.

The basic premise of forces reduction, the world over, is predicated on the technological revolution which provides accurate and devestating force multipliers.

Therefore, while world-wide budgetary allocations are increasing, the emphasis is on accurate firepower, lethality and mobility at the cost of shedding manpower. Such forces restructuring requires a conceived military strategy derived from a declared national security policy.

In the ever-absence of such a policy, the Indian army, by now reducing its formations will repeat mistakes of same magnitude as done because of its unstructured and unplanned forces expansion.

In the aftermath of the 1962 debacle, Gen J N Chaudhari concentrated on raising 6 mountain divisions, overruling the pressing critical requirement of a mixed armour brigade with AMX and Centurion tanks for the west, as suggested by the then army commander Lt Gen Sam Maneckshaw. And the country paid its price as revealed in the latest book by the then chief of staff Maj Gen Joginder Singh. And in the early 1980s, for unknown political reasons, n extremely costly army forward policy was undertaken in the Nothern arc, which has now been reversed.

The reasons given for the reversal are reduced Chinese threat and a new conceived policy of dual tasking of troops catering for both fronts. But this is not new. While the concept of raising the 11 mountain divisions is based on their employment as theatre counter attack forces or limited offensive forces, the contigency plans have always catered for the shifting of theatre forces within the overall ORBAT, catering for time needed for troops acclimatisation and weapon usage because of changes in equipment assets (war-establishment) of forces.

Army's ad hoc expansion ensured that finances were never available for the mechanisation in the west to attain deterrence levels and also precluded full motorisation in the north. Even then the former army chief Gen K Sundarji had boasted that he could spare 3 to 4 divisions for the Centurion tanks for the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] role in Sri Lanka. And the capabilities of the tactical air force to supply both fronts is also doubtful.

Now, not withstanding Chinese stated good intentions, their military capabilities are increasing. Sino-Pak strategic linkages are strengthening. Army's internal security responsibilities are on the rise. And all army commanders have repeatedly opposed even ideas concerning shrinking of assets within formations. For instance, artillery is opposed to a 12 gun regiment and infantry to a three rifle company battalion.

In such a situation, reduction of force levels can only be worthwhile if they are tailored to a conceived military strategy taking into account national security aspects and need for modernisation of assets and discounting two myths perpetrated by many defence analysts.

First, in no case in the world has direct nuclearisation been co-related with reduction of conventional forces. And second, caderisation of forces in our context will have to cater for time required for at least one full divisional exercise before troops can be declared fit for war. Caderisation implies that heavy equipment is kept under heavy preservation and except for a hard core manpower, the remaining is wasted out, to be recalled in an emergency.

Such an approach can also ensure firm budgetary allocations for a 5 to 10 years period, something which has never been done, according to sources.

Gold Bonds Immunities Bill Passed in Parliament

BK2403042493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Parliament has passed the Gold Bonds Immunities and Exemptions Bill 1993. It provides for certain immunities to the subscribers of the gold bond and with certain exemptions from direct taxes in relation to the gold bonds.

The bill already passed by the Lok Sabha was adopted by the Rajya Sabha after a statutory resolution seeking disapproval of the bill was withdrawn by Dr. J.K. Jain, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

Replying to the discussion on the bill, the minister of state for finance, Mr. M.V. Chandrasekhara Murthy, said the bill will enable the government to mobilize idle gold for productive purposes. He said gold smuggling has been drastically reduced following recent government measures. However, some opposition members said that the bill may encourage black money holders to convert it into gold bonds. They also said that it may encourage tax evasion and smuggling.

Another bill passed by parliament yesterday was the Interest on Delayed Payments to Small-Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertaking Bill 1993. The bill provides for and regulates the payment of interests on delayed payments to small-scale and ancillary industrial undertakings and related matters. The bill also provides for necessary statutory backing to ensure timely payment to the small-scale units.

Replying to the discussion on the bill in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, the minister of state for industry, Mr. Arunachalam, said that the credit flow to the small scale-sector is yet to reach the required level. Later, the House approved the bill unanimously by voice vote. The Lok Sabha has already adopted the bill.

Official on Success of Satellite Program

BK2403050993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Mar 93 p 9

[Text] IRS [Indian Remote Sensing]-1A, the first Indian remote sensing satellite, on Wednesday [17 March] completed five years in space marking a major milestone in the history of India's space effort. At a press conference to mark the occasion, ISRO [Indian Space Research Organisation] Chairman Prof U. R. Rao said that the satellite had been planned for an operational life of three years but was still providing very clear imagery. It was expected to continue functioning till the end of this year after which its batteries would run out .

Prof Rao said the batteries were designed to go through 25,000 charging and recharging cycles. In its five years of operation, IRS 1A had covered the country 82 times providing over four lakh imageries. With IRS 1A and 1B working together it was possible to get full coverage of the country every 11 days. The IRS satellites had revolutionised the use of space technology for the management of natural resources. He said India had more use of this technology than any other country in the world.

In the field of forestry, the IRS satellites were making biannual forest surveys which helped monitor and control deforestation. Now, it was not only possible to look at forest areas, but also identify dominant forest species of an area. Using IRS imagery for groundwater management, it was now possible to dig a well with 93 percent chance of success, compared to the 45 percent success ratio of wells dug without its help. In fisheries, the IRS satellites had helped double fish catch. In South India, they were being used to locate mineral resources.

Prof Rao said other applications included soil mapping, estimating agricultural acreage, monitoring snow and run-off, urban planning and flood mapping. The IRS was also being used to take up a pioneering study in sustainable integrated development in six districts all over the country.

Prof Rao said IRS 1C which was expected to be launched in 1994 would be a new generation satellite which would remain state-of-the-art well into the latter part of the decade. It would have a 20 metre resolution with middle infra red cameras that could look at pests and diseases. Its panchromatic cameras would have a 7 metre resolution and it would also be equipped with a 180 metre resolution camera for quick monitoring.

Prof Rao also said that the Indian Space Research Organisation will keep its schedules in spite of the US sanctions against it. He told reporters on Wednesday that both the INSAT 2B and the undigenous rocket PSLV would be ready for launch by June this year. The INSAT 2C, which was of a slightly different shape as it would contain a payload for mobile communication, would be ready for launch by the end of 1994.

Prof Rao admitted that the cost of the projects would go up by about 10 percent, but said ISRO had solved the problem by going in for indigenisation as well as finding alternative suppliers. Pointing out that no country in the world was completely self-reliant in space, he said one of ISRO's major successes was being able to manufacture its own maraging steel needed for launch vehicle construction.

He criticised the sanctions, terming them "extremely unhappy." He pointed out that cryogenic technology was not used for missiles, which used only solid fuel. Asked whether the new Clinton administration would change its stand on the sanctions, he said it would take some time before President Clinton was able to look into the issue. But, with institutes such as the Carnegie Foundation recommending that the sanctions be lifted, there seemed a possibility that they would go, although it could take some time.

Meanwhile, Russia had no hesitation over the supply of cryogenic rocket systems and ISRO and the Russian Space Agency, Glavkosmos, had already started working or the transfer of technology.

Prof Rao said efforts to indigenise radiation-hardened integrated circuit technology were going ahead with all speed. He regretted that efforts to develop ISRO's capabilities in the field of electronics had not started earlier. Nobody could afford to sit back and allow the electronic revolution to pass by, he pointed out.

Referring to the fledgling Antriksh Corporation—ISRO's efforts to sell its technologies and services through an autonomous agency—Prof Rao said efforts were being made to obtain European Space Agency sub-contracts through member countries like France. Efforts to obtain contracts from developing countries were also being made, but this would be difficult since most of them turned to the West for their space requirements. Still, he hoped the Corporation would be able to notch up a turnover of $100 million within five years.

Prof Rao was critical of the Government's moves to obtain a transponder on Asiasat for Doordarshan. "Personally, I would have done it in a different way," he said. He suggested that it would be better to put in four transponders and telecast more programmes through them. Even now, Doordarshan did not have the programmes to completely utilize the existing transponders, he pointed out. He said the problem ould be that Doordarshan was trying to compete with Asiasat channels such as Zee IV.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers First 'Id al-Fitr Sermon

LD2403114393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0715 GMT 24 Mar 93

[First 'Id al-Fitr sermon by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at Imam Khomeyni's Grand Mosalla in Tehran on 24 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted]. On this auspicious day and amid this great presence of the people, I wish to offer a piece of advice, just as in previous years. This is only one example from dozens that could be raised. I take the opportunity in this spiritual atmosphere to raise this point, and that is, to avoid waste and lavishness. I wish to ask our Muslim brothers and sisters all over the country to take the issue of contentment seriously. By contentment I do not mean you should avoid feeling and enjoying divine gifts. I mean you should observe some limit and avoid extravagance, lavishness, and wasting divine riches.

Unfortunately, some people do waste God's gifts. There are some in the Islamic Republic who cannot gain access to divine gifts. Not because we are facing shortage, rather because some regard it as their right to consume divine gifts without care or consideration, without observing any limits. They even waste divine gifts. How much food is wasted? How much cooked food is wasted? How much fruit is left to rot and then thrown away from the people's houses? What a lot is spent to buy clothes, many times above one's requirements, to be stored in wardrobes and just to be worn once on a ceremony. This is a waste. I wish our dear people would realize that waste is unlawful, it is a sin and contrary to the shari'ah. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i's Second 'Id al-Fitr Sermon

LD2403121593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0729 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Second 'Id al-Fitr sermon by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at Imam Khomeyni's Grand Mosalla in Tehran on 24 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted] There are two points which I will briefly speak about in this sermon. One concerns the fact that unfortunately this year was a year of great disasters for the world Muslims, a year of heart-rending pains for Muslims. Take a look around the world, at the Islamic countries and Muslim nations. You will see that the world Muslims are going through extremely difficult days. At the foremost of these problems stand a number of painful issues, among which is that of the dear bloody Palestine; our Muslim brothers in Palestine remain under the usurper enemy's pressure and blows. These few hundred Muslim Palestinians too, in these difficult days, have created an epic by virtue of their endurance. They caught the attention of the nations, but unfortunately many Muslim governments... [pauses] Even this event which is a historic event that has rendered hundreds of old and young people homeless, among them are some prominent and famous combatants, by expelling them from their homelands into the deserts. In such an era, in a period in which human rights issues have come to constitute a source of income for some of the world's governments and organizations... [pauses] They raise cries about human rights wherever they see something they could use as a pretext to pressure governments on which they want to exert pressure. They raise cries over human rights when a smuggler is executed, while they expel some 400 individuals from their homelands and send them to the deserts in the cold and under difficult conditions such as hunger and sickness. Those very advocates of human rights, are standing still. It is a great calamity, a major event, and an event which stands above all disasters.

Another is the Afghan issue. We hope that those bloody clashes will no longer continue among the leaders of the Afghan parties. The Afghan people are Muslim and innocent people. It is a great injustice when party leaders turn people against one another, and shed their blood in their homes and in the streets, roads, and towns which they claim to have liberated.

And again at the forefront of all these issues—these bloody issues—stands the disastrous events in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is a very bizarre event; it is a very colossal event. The event itself is colossal and astonishing, and so is the silence and indifference of the so-called civilized world. We find it impossible to explain in words the dimensions of this disaster, however hard we try to do so. How could one explain in words the misfortune of a nation that is being massacred merely for being Muslims, whose houses are being destroyed, whose honor is abused, who are undergoing all sorts of injustice, and who have been turned out of their homes. Had this event been related to us as a historic event, we would not have believed it easily. This is happening in front of the world.

I do not want to make repetitive statements. What I want to say concerns the guilty ones in the Bosnian issue. Those whose hands have been stained with the blood of the innocent Bosnian people should not wash their hands of their guilt in the Bosnian issue. Who is the guilty one? I say that all those individuals who somehow prevented the Muslim Bosnians from gaining defensive strength, have played a part in the victimization of that nation.

Those Western powers which in the name of stopping violence prevent weapons from reaching those people—they say that once those people attain weapons violence will continue. I say to them: If you are telling the truth and are against the principle of violence, and have stopped weapons from reaching those Muslims so that they may defend themselves, if you are telling the truth, then you should have been there with your military might at the first opportunity and at the outset, and prevented Serbs from perpetrating those atrocities against Muslims. If you are telling the truth and your intention is to stop the violence, then that was the way to stop violence. You should have gone there and stopped that executioner who is armed with all sorts of weapons and who is also receiving assistance from outside, from attacking a mass of defenseless and weaponless human beings and doing whatever it wants. That was the way to stop violence. They did not do that. They should either have gone there themselves, or they should have send them weapons to enable them to defend themselves, or if they did not want to supply them with weapons, they should have left the way open so that those who wanted to send them weapons would have been able to do so. The world Muslims were ready to send them weapons. That was their natural right. That was their legitimate right. Why did they not let them?

European governments began to declare, one after the other, that they would not become involved in the Bosnian issue. Why do you not want to become involved? Why when you see a nation in Europe being massacred in front of your eyes, a nation that is an indigenous part of that region—the Bosnians are not aliens, they are not immigrants, they are the people of that very region, they belong to the same race as the rest of that region, it is their own territory, their own home... [pauses] They can see how they are being massacred by another group which are not any stronger than them, but possess weapons—otherwise Serbs are not any stronger than Muslims. It is natural that in an era when automatic weapons, firearms, long-range weapons and all sorts of advanced weapons are in supreme control, then whoever possesses one of such weapons has control over anyone who has not. The Muslims do not have individual guns. You should not have allowed them to attack in such a manner. You should not have allowed this attack to continue for one year. Now it is about one year that this massacre is being perpetrated. If you did not want to become involved yourselves, you should have said: Well, we will not become involved but we will supply them with weapons. You could have supplied them with the same quantity of weapons as the other group. If you did not want to supply them with weapons you could have left the way open for Muslim governments and countries to supply them with the required quantity of weapons. Why did you not let them? I say that all those who

prevented Muslim Bosnians from gaining strength to defend their territory, honor and children, are all involved in this massacre and all are criminals.

I want the Muslim people of the world to realize this point. The Muslims of the future should know that the genocide of Muslims in Europe has been carried by the present day Western powers, both European and American. Although they are not in the arena, as I said before, they are responsible because they prevented these Muslims from defending themselves. It is like two persons fighting with each other, you arm one of them and hold tight the other one's hands behind his back so that he cannot defend himself. What will be the outcome? Who is to blame for this crime? The Western governments are guilty, the European governments are guilty, the U.S. Government is guilty. They must not exonerate themselves by making some remarks in this or that organization. By dropping some food consignments from the sky—and we do not know who picks them up—they cannot wash this stain of shame from their records. It is even unclear whether they are telling the truth, but even if they are telling the truth, it will not make up for the tragedy they have created.

I am saying we want to help our brothers, but they do not allow us. The Muslim nations intend to arm them, but they are not permitted to do so. Many of the Muslim governments wish to help as they feel responsible, but they are not allowed to. These are the same ones that intervened fully armed wherever their interests dictated. The Persian Gulf was one such example. Once in a Middle Eastern country, a small number of Christians were threatened, one of the European governments—which is among the indifferent states in this same Bosnian affair—declared that it intended to take action. They would have taken action and have done so in the past. But since the Muslims are suffering here, as they do not wish to see the Muslims take root in Europe and as they do not wish to see a Muslim nation standing on its feet in Europe, they commit such a crime. They see such a crime in front of their eyes and ignore it. [passage omitted]

The second point is about our own issues. The issues of the Islamic Republic. Once again the Zionist propaganda mouthpieces all over the world have resumed their attack on us. Every now and again they launch a wave of propaganda onslaught. Once again this propaganda wave has been launched against the Islamic Republic by the Zionist media. The point is that the Islamic Republic is a hated entity in the eyes of world arrogants just because it is seeking to safeguard its independence, because it refuses to submit to bullying, because it seeks to protect its own national interests instead of the interests of the arrogants, because it has stood against the greed of the enemies who wish to gain access to the riches of this country and because it put paid to those who served colonialism and arrogance for decades in this country. We realize this and it does not bother us. The more the Islamic Republic is despised in the eyes of the arrogants, the world-devourers, the savages and the satans, the happier we will become. The day they begin to be pleased with us and become happy with us, that day we will become suspicious of the accuracy of our chosen path and our work. I am not surprised they despise us.

But what they are talking about again today is the issue of terrorism, which is not a new issue. They accuse the Islamic Republic of terrorism and intending to export the revolution to the rest of the world. I am saying that the issue of exporting the revolution, a point that they have repeated many times in the past, is a baseless and a meaningless allegation. A revolution is not something that one can export. A revolution is not a commodity, that can be exported. A revolution is not something that could be carried somewhere else and exported to another country. A revolution will export itself if it is justified, if it is rational and if it appears attractive to other nations. Yes the revolution has been exported, but we did not export it. It exported itself. This was the first [as heard] point.

The second point is that we do not intend to export the revolution today. A revolution can be exported only once and it did so. The fact that you see the trend toward Islam and Islamic faith has been revived, the fact that you see the nations are awakened in North Africa, in the Middle East and up to the eastern and Western boundaries of the Islamic countries, and the fact that you see the Muslim youths in various countries are turning to the beautiful aspects of the religion and the Koran, this is because the Islamic revolution was exported immediately after its emergence. We are not going to think of exporting the revolution now, that is, 14 years after it happened. A revolution is exported once and it did so. When the revolution occurred and its news and attractions filled the world, what was necessary to be done was done. The same thing that you are unhappy with, the same thing for which you chew the chains of anger and the same thing which makes you so upset, was done. The work is done and it is too late to do anything about it; and there is nothing you or anyone else can do. The affair is completed and over.

But, concerning the issue of terrorism. They say, you, the Islamic Republic, supports the terrorists and they then threaten this Islamic Republic. What I say is that, first, accusing the Islamic Republic of supporting terrorism is a lie and a blatant slander. We do not support any terrorist. You should look and see who the world's terrorists are and then see whether we support them. The biggest terrorists in the world today are the Zionists. You see what the Zionists are doing with the Palestinian nation. The fact that they are a government does not mean that they are not terrorists. Who supports Zionist terrorists? Western intelligence organizations are among the largest examples of terrorists in the world, according to their own admissions. They have fought so much against popular systems and governments—is this not terrorism? We do not support them. Anyone who, in any corner of the world, in a city, village, road or anywhere, plants a bomb and annihilates innocent and unprotected

people, women and men, civilians—this is terrorism and we have never and will never support these kinds of people.

It is you, O you Western powers who support terrorists. Those terrorists who planted bombs at Tehran's Railway Square and tore to pieces women, men, children, and old people, in this way. Those who planted a bomb while Friday prayers were being held in Tehran and tore to pieces our innocent young people and men. Those who planted a bomb at the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party and killed 72 of the most genuine and brilliant personalities of this country, causing pain to this nation. These are the terrorists. Those who, from the start of the revolution to the time that they were able to—and if you do not see any sign of them it is because they are incapable—today, too, if these terrorists were able to, they would yet again plant bombs in squares, avenues, prayer centers and in assemblies. These are the terrorists. Where are they? Those terrorists who destroyed Tehran's Railway and Tup-Khaneh Squares in Tehran with their bombs and killed women and children, the young and old, where are they living now? By whom are they being assisted and supported? They are in these same Western countries. They are in America; they are in Europe. The terrorists are living under the cover of those very people who say: We oppose terrorism.

The Islamic Republic does not side with terrorism. You who accuse the Islamic Republic, it is you who side with terrorism since you support terrorism. Why do France, Germany, America, and the rest of the countries not arrest, in their own countries, these same terrorists who admitted and accepted that they had planted these bombs? Why don't they put them on trial and persecute them on grounds of them being terrorists? Why don't they punish them if they are telling the truth and oppose terrorism. Then they level accusations and slander against the Islamic Republic on the grounds that it supports terrorism. No! We oppose planting bombs. We oppose the killing of people's wives and children. We strongly oppose confronting civilians, who, unawares, are walking about and minding their own business. We condemn these acts. It is you who are not opposed to these deeds—you, Western governments, arrogance. You are the ones who level accusations against the Islamic Republic. This is the first point.

But now the second point. They accuse the Islamic Republic of terrorism and of exporting the revolution and then they threaten her. I say to them: You are making a grave mistake by threatening the Islamic Republic. What are you threatening it with? What did you imagine the Islamic Republic was about? They are gravely mistaken. Those who imagine that because empty revolutions, revolutions that did not rely on the people were defeated and destroyed in communist countries this means that this genuine, popular revolution which was carried out with the hands of every individual in the nation, may also be defeated—they are grossly mistaken. How wrong it is to compare a country such as the former Soviet Union which, from the start of its establishment until its destruction, was a country in which they did not hold even one popular and country-wide elections. Who has seen popular elections in the Soviet Union? When were there elections in socialist and communist countries? It was always parties that were in power; it was the parties that appointed the leaders and even then, not all the individuals in one party but only a select number, the ones who were members of the central committees. They would appoint four people and place them at the top of the seat of power and the nation was not aware of who was coming and going, under such a suppressive state of affairs.

There is a difference between such countries and a country such as the Islamic Republic of Iran which, no sooner than two months after the victory of the Islamic revolution, held its great referendum on the issue of the Islamic Republic. Barely a few months had passed when the Constitution was ratified and the referendum on the Constitution was held and the nation endorsed the Constitution. Barely a year after the revolution elections were held for the office of the president. Look around and you see that some of these socialist countries—so called socialist—when they went through their recent upheaval in these communist and socialist countries, they declared that they wanted to hold elections. After 30 or 40 years they wanted to hold presidential elections! When have elections been held in these same Arab socialist—so called socialist countries? When have people cast their votes at the ballot boxes there? Compare this with the Islamic Republic of Iran where, at every stage, this nation, every individual in the nation, was present on the scene with their vote. The Islamic Republic was endorsed by the nation. The Constitution was endorsed by the nation.

The Majles is elected directly by the nation, once every four years. The president is elected directly by the nation. The people's deputies in the Majles approve the members of the government and even the people's [Assembly of] Experts are voted in and the leader is also appointed through the people's indirect vote. The people are present everywhere. The system is a completely popular one. A revolution which is tied to the votes and wills of all the people—what do you compare this with and with what are you trying to frighten the Islamic Republic? With what? I say to you, our dear nation, and Muslim nations should also know that as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, America and Western countries, have, up to now, done everything they could to deliver blows against it.

We don't owe any favors to anyone. They have delivered their blows and the Islamic Republic, thanks to the creator's divine blessings, continues to stand with such pride on its feet. [audience chants: "God is great," "Death to arrogance," "Death to America," "Death to the Monafeqin and Saddam," "Death to Zionism"]

Today there are still many countries in the world and in this region that have thus far had nothing resembling the Majles. There has not been even one election in those

countries thus far, in our own region. The people have no participation in any of the issues of those countries. They have no will.

For 50 years before the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and before the victory of this blessed revolution, the situation was the same in this country too—the situation was the same in this country too. [repetition as heard] There were no elections. There was a Majles, but it was made to order. There were two Houses [Majles and Senate], but both were made to order. A monarch who was set up by the British and who was employed by the Americans was at the helm of the affairs. In those days there was no Western mention of the violation of human rights in this country, as today there is no mention of it in the reactionary countries of the region.

However, in the Islamic Republic where everything rests on the shoulders of the people and is done by the will of the people and where today, due to God's blessings, there is a freedom in this country that has very few precedents in the past history of Iran—even if we do not say that it is unprecedented—because our past history is a period of dictatorial monarchies, is a black and dismal period of suffocation, whichever period in the past we look at... [pauses] Today, thanks be to God, the Iranian people are free. They think, they ponder, they elect, they decide. A system which is resting on the shoulders of such a people, that system is a powerful system and the deceit of the enemies will not be able to harm it. The Lord of the Age [the hidden imam] has also bestowed his favor and his grace upon this nation, this country, this land and upon the believing hearts of you people. He has shown his bounty in the past and he will show it in the future too. We hope that the enemies in their plots against the Islamic Republic will fail today, as they have always done. Without any doubt they will fail.

The Iranian nation is powerful. The Iranian nation is strong, due to its faith, due to its unity, due to its faithfulness to Islam and to the revolution. We hope that this nation will always attract the blessings of the Lord of the Age, may our lives be sacrificed for him, and it will attract those blessings. [passage omitted]

Bani-Sadr Rebuts Denial of Khamene'i Home Explosion

PM2303145993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Mar 93 p 8

[Report by Safa Ha'iri: "Bani-Sadr Confirms to AL-HAYAH That Explosion Did Occur at Khamene'i's Home"]

[Excerpt] Paris—In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, Thursday, former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr confirmed the news of the explosion at the home of the Islamic Republic's Supreme Guide Ali Khamene'i which the Iranian official media had denied. Prior to that, he said, there was a major dispute between Khamene'i and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He had this to say about the Iranian denial: "We do not pay much attention to that denial. We are certain that there was an explosion, although Khamene'i may have escaped injury. Our information is that four or five days ago there was a serious argument between Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani over some political issues. The explosion could have been perpetrated by Hashemi-Rafsanjani supporters."

There were conflicting reports about the explosion at the home of the supreme guide of the Iranian Republic and its causes, but informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that 20 people were killed or wounded. The opposition organization Babak Formedin [not further identified] quickly claimed responsibility for the explosion. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Prime Minister Sharif Assures India of Cooperation

BK2403094993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has instructed Pakistan's Amabassador to India Riaz Khokhar to inform the Indian Government that Pakistan will fully cooperate in inquiries relating to the criminals involved in the recent bomb blasts in Bombay. The prime minister issued these instructions to the high commissioner in New Delhi after being informed that the Indian Government sought Pakistan's cooperation in apprehending the criminals.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan has informed Indian High Commissioner S.K. Lamba about the prime minister's instructions in this regard. He assured the Indian high commissioner that the Pakistan Government would fully cooperate in investigations in this matter.

U.S. Ties Likened to 'Uncharted Sea'

BK2403033093 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Mar 93 p 15

[By M.B. Naqvi]

[Text] Pakistan's relations with the United States are becoming more and more like an uncharted sea. The uncertainty is not so much about America's design for Asia as it is about our ability to cope with it in a rational and balanced way. Some pointers about possible new American preferences are available, even if nuances of actual policies may change from time to time in response to changing challenges.

America is not withdrawing into any isolationism, much less of the kind seen in the inter-war period (1919-1939). It has been the leader of the Free World for 45 years and hopes now to lead the world—as the sole superpower. Anyhow, the world economy is now far more integrated

and American stakes—investments, exports and expectations of invisible earnings—are too high to permit even limited isolationism.

The U.S. is the only superpower in just one sense: militarily. That no doubt bestows much prestige and influence. But its limits shall increasingly be felt by a twin-faceted development: economic sinews are emerging into a sharper focus as the seven-tenths of influence, if not also of prestige. The other side of the coin is that in terms of economic strength, EC and Japan are going to compete with the U.S.. And the future may bring into being huge new economic power centres.

Anyway, the U.S. economic stakes—need to cope with Japan, trying to obtain a share of the cake from the 'tigers', retaining the leadership role through the control of vital sealanes, ensuring strategic raw material etc—will keep it engaged with, and in, Asia, political commitment to Israel means that South and Central Asia, without being in the centre of things, cannot be too far out of American mind.

Power politics in Asia by a superpower translates into trying to keep a series of balances of power (in each its region, or subregion, as American strategists term them). Keeping these regions stable will be the name of the game. That is where divergences between the Americans and Pakistanis have already begun growing. Understandably obsessed with Kashmir and other disputes with India, Pakistan regards itself as an antistatus quo power and sets little or no store by stability. In terms of concepts, even its peace preference carries caveats.

As it happens, Americans regard India as the centrepiece of their design for a South Asian balance of power. It is a force for stability and has two other virtues: now cultivating closer relations with U.S. and secondly it is trying to implement IMF-recommended economic and financial reforms. Although some strategists regard India as a possible rival of the U.S. in more than one aspect, it makes sense for Washington to cooperate with it as closely as possible now.

But India is not a static or immutable phenomenon. It is seen to be undergoing a profound transformation: Rampant Hindu fundamentalism has gravely threatened its threadbare secularism that is only partially working, institutions. The BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), for all its democratic pretensions based on sophistry about what constitutes secularism in India, it is a revivalist and fundamentalist party whose rule will be fascistic in essentials. After Feb 25 Delhi rally, its march to power may have become irresistible. What does that portend?

Insofar as the purely Indo-American relations are concerned, it would not matter much to the Americans if the BJP were to start running the government in New Delhi. BJP rulers will be quite happy to increase cooperation with the U.S., at least for a decade or so. However, an important input in the Indo-American cooperation will be the state of Indo-Pakistan relations. Washington's advice of moderation to New Delhi can be taken for granted and the initial BJP gambit of offering friendship to Islamabad is sure to be followed by an increasing degree of friction in the subcontinent, originating in the communal situation in India. Another input in Indo-American relations will be the possible intensification (?) of divergences between Pakistan and the U.S.

These can be considered under four heads. One has already noted the American desire to keep South Asia stable through a balance of power: it is unlikely to receive any enthusiastic response from Islamabad. The second concerns the nuclear conundrum. It is hard to see what deal can be struck between a Washington that totally disfavours the idea of a nuclear deterrent in Pakistani hands and an Islamabad that regards it as vital for its survival—or between India that started a grandiose integrated programme in nearly 1950s with a view to be a true great power and Pakistan that may only have become a bothersome nuisance rather than anything more. A solution looks like continuing to elude all three, though some informal arrangement on a studied negligence by all might be possible. Actual denuclearisation of the subcontinent is hard to conceive.

The third ground for misunderstandings between Pakistan and the U.S., though silly, is nevertheless real: it is the fear of an Indo-U.S. axis in Asia that worries Islamabad. Pakistanis unthinkingly tend to be shocked at the Americans—their long-time close allies—cosying up to Indians and planning long-term close cooperation. Nevertheless with the change in world situation, Pak- U.S. cooperation can only become a memory, the mourning of which is childish.

Finally, there is the Indo-American perception of Islamic fundamentalism as a threat to India's and region's stability and peace. It is a frightfully complex question that is not susceptible to a friend-or-foe description. Three general remarks are, however, in order. First and foremost, Islamic fundamentalism, no matter how it is defined or even its existence denied, is a potent threat to the individual freedoms and hopes of progress in the concerned society—and to few others. Fundamentalists are revivalists, with their gaze fixed on an idolised, largely imaginary past, and by definition reactionaries (i.e. incapable of leading the march toward progress). The consequence of their success in capturing power are not likely to remain confined to lack of progress. They actually, being also intolerant, will make the unity and integrity of actually plural and polycentric societies in the Islamic world impossible by knocking out their basis in religio-cultural and political (i.e. secular) tolerance. Islamic fundamentalism primarily threatens Muslims.

Fundamentalist schools in Pakistan largely produce fakes who are ready to bargain—if only the terms are attractive. All those Pakistani rulers whose stock-in-trade was Islam and who greatly encouraged fundamentalism always had excellent relations with the Americans.

That also goes for Hindu and Islamic fundamentalism in India: there are sure to be hundreds of area experts who know how to deal (exploit?) religious fundamentalists—for promoting of American interests. This should not be a serious ground for discord between Pakistan and the U.S. or India and America as many believe.

Pakistanis have to learn to live with divergences with America. It is possible to preempt the U.S. by doing a deal with the Indians of our own. So long as the Indians and Americans do not recruit Pakistan's cooperation, few American schemes can succeed. Americans are no doubt trying to do just that. But something more and some more effort is called for. For one thing, Pakistanis are proving to be indifferent adapters and learners from their own experience. But Americans are also not showing much imaginativeness; a more sensitive study of the subcontinent by them would seem to be called for, despite their preoccupation with hard-nosed realism of world leadership role based on narrowly defined American interests.

U.S. Reports of Terrorist Links to Pakistan Criticized

BK2303112793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Mar 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Terrorism and Pakistan]

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddique Kanjoo's reiteration of Pakistan's being opposed to terrorism in all forms and opening the doors to cooperation with international efforts to combat terrorism can be regarded as better late than never. The accusations of terrorism have been around for sometime now. In January this year reports spoke of Pakistan having been placed on a watch list of terrorist states by the US Government, to be reviewed after four months. That review deadline is not all that far away. Whether that is the reason Mr Kanjoo has felt compelled to act now, it is nevertheless a positive move to dispel the progaganda regarding Pakistan's alleged support to terrorism in Kashmir and East Punjab, regarding Pakistan as the point of origin for fundamentalist terrorism in many Muslim countries. On Kashmir Mr Kanjoo produced the stock official position that our support to the indigenous and self-sustaining liberation struggle is confined to political, diplomatic and moral support and does not extend to arming or training the groups of freedom fighters. Also, Pakistan has no involvement at all in East Panjab, whose bleeding wound is a consequence of Sikh allenation in the aftermath of the Golden Temple assault. The embarrassment caused by the groups challenging governments in some Muslim countries after returning from the Afghan war has arisen as a consequence of volunteers from many Muslim countries who fought alongside the Afghan Mojahedin and are believed to constitute the core of the fundamentalist opposition groups in countries as far apart as North Africa and Central Asia. The responsibility for the growth of such groups cannot, however, be placed at Pakistan's door. The US was deeply involved in the Afghan struggle and therefore could not have been unaware of the existence of these volunteers or the implications for their countries of origin once the Afghan struggle was over. It is a different matter that the US chose to turn a blind eye to the phenomenon in its exclusive focus on defeating the Soviets in Afghan.

Nevertheless, since it is Pakistan which is being pilloried in this as in other contexts on the issue of support to terrorism, we have to take steps to develop transparency so as to convince the world of the truth. In this sense Mr Kanjoo's steps are in the national interest. These steps include setting up of an anti-terrorist cell which will cooperate with international agencies to combat the virus and an open invitation to the international media and human rights groups to freely visit Pakistan and see the situation for themselves. Further, steps are being speeded up to get rid of all illegal foreigners who may still be lingering on Pakistani soil. Mr Kanjoo's efforts to persuade the US that Pakistan is not only not sponsoring terrorism, but is prepared to go out of its way to satisfy the international community of Pakistan's innocence should normally set the matter at rest. Otherwise, having literally bent over backwards to achieve a clean bill of health, if the US is still not persuaded, it can only mean that the accusations have a different motive.

Details of Armed Forces Parade, Khan's National Day Speech

BK2303150393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said Pakistan is not unaware of its defense obligations. Despite having a desire for peace, it would continue to acquire ultramodern technology to defend its territory. He was addressing the joint services parade at the Sahahra-i-Qaide Azam on the 53d anniversary of the Pakistan Resolution in Islamabad today.

The day dawned with a 31-gun salute in the federal capital. A 21-gun salute heralded the day in the provincial capitals. Prayers were offered for the solidarity, integrity, and prosperity of the country. Prayers for the unity of Muslim ummah [community] was also offered. National flags were hoisted on all principal public and private buildings. A joint services parade was the highlight of the day in Islamabad. On arrival, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was received by the chairman of joint chief of staff committee, General Shamim Alam Khan, and the three service chiefs. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, arrived at the venue in the traditional carriage led by the president's bodyguards. The president was received by the prime minister, besides the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee and the three service chiefs. The parade presented the president a salute. National anthem was played by the military band. The president reviewed the smartly turned out contingent of the three forces.

Addressing the parade, the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, said peace is a practical necessity for South Asia and neighboring countries should work to achieve this objective. Pakistan sincerely believes in this concept and other countries should respond in a positive manner. The president warned that it would be a great blunder if our positive attitude is considered a weakness. Pakistan, he said, has the full right to safeguard its independence and solidarity. In this connection, he said, no other country has the right to impose its will upon us. The president said the survival of our coming generation depends upon a united, strong, and prosperous Pakistan. Adherence to national interests and their realization are not the task of one man. To achieve these objectives, the entire nation has to be mobilized and all its resources have to be pooled for creating a conducive atmosphere. Institutions have to be strengthened in such a way that they may be able to withstand any crisis and eventuality. It is of paramount importance that democratic values and culture should be promoted and adopted. The president asked the ummah to be aware of the storms ahead. The ummah, he said, is suffering very serious problems due to disunity and inaction. Muslims all over the world, including Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Middle East, and Africa are facing miseries and suppression. In some cases, they are being deprived of their freedom, which is their basic right. He deplored that in spite of these miseries, Muslims are not following Allah's message of unity and the Koranic message of struggle.

The president said durable peace cannot be established in South Asia without resolution of the Kashmir issue.

The president's speech was followed by the armed forces parade. The parade was led by Brigadier Abdul Qadir. Exuding pride and enthusiasm, the contingents constituting the marching columns then marched passed the dais in (?review). They were drawn from the Punjab, Baloch regiment, Frontier Force Regiment, Azad Kashmir Regiment, Sindh Regiment, Engineers, Signals, Special Services Group, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force [PAF], Northern Light Infantry, Frontier Corps of NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Balochistan, Pakistan rangers and Mujahid Force. Due to rain and inclement weather, the fly past by PAF and Army Aviation aircraft was called off. Mechanized columns comprised tanks, infantry, artillery, air defense, engineers signals, personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, radars and field guns. Also on display were indigenously-produced weapons, which included Hadaf-1 and Hadaf-2 surface-to-surface missiles and Anza surface-to-air missiles. [passage omitted on celebrations of Pakistan Day in other provincial capitals]

President, Premier Discuss 8th Amendment

BK2303154893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that during his meeting with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday they exchanged views on the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution and national and international issues. Talking informally to newsmen after the awards ceremony at the President's House in Islamabad this afternoon, he said the Eighth Amendment is a protective fence against martial law. He said the amendment also ensures a balance of authority.

During a brief chat the prime minister again strongly denied that he has differences with the president. He said they had a very constructive and positive meeting during which they exchanged views on national and international issues.

Sri Lanka

Daily Carries Premadasa's BBC Interview

BK2103105593 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 9 Mar 93 p 16

["Verbatim text of Presidant Ranasinghe Premadasa's replies to questions phoned in from several parts of the world in a live BBC radio phone-in programme" in Colombo on 7 Mar]

[Text] **Question from George Magula of Malawi**

Mr. President a few days ago the Leader of the Tamil Separatist group fighting for a separate State stated that his group might agree to a federal constitution. I am wondering what your government's reaction to this is?

BBC Moderator: May I just add to that. The Leader of Tamil Tigers Prabhakaran said in an interview over BBC Tamil Service that was broadcast in the World Service that the on-going conflict between his group and the government forces, now on for more than ten years, could end if some acceptable solution, a federal solution could be found.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], the Liberation Tigers Movement of which Mr. Prabhakaran is the leader, are aware that a select committee of parliament is presently examining ways and means of resolving what is referred to as the Tamil problem. I think you are aware of the endeavours made by my government to reach a political solution to this problem.

The idea of federalism has also been considered in the select committee. After discussions, the parliamentarians belonging to my party, the UNP [United National Party], and the parliamentarians belonging to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, of which the leader of the opposition is the leader, along with three other parties, I understand, have agreed to devolution of power on the Indian model.

As you know, the Sri Lankan constitution prescribes that Sri Lanka should be a unitary State. This is also enshrined in our constitution. It requires a two third

majority and a majority at a referendum if the constitution is to be changed. Prabhakaran is welcome to make his proposals to the select committee which will then consider the issue.

As you may recall, soon after my election as president in January 1989, I invited the LTTE which was then at war with the State, to give up arms and join the democratic process. We had discussions with their group I think for fourteen months.

In brief, I must say the LTTE agreed to enter the democratic process. They even registered their political wing as a political party with the Commissioner of Elections. They demanded fresh elections to the North East Provincial Council.

At that time an elected provincial council was in office. But under the Provincial Councils law the government was not in a position to dissolve the council. But later due to certain actions taken by the council, which were against the constitution, we were able to dissolve the council and make it possible for elections. So that....

BBC Moderator: Do you feel that Mr. Prabhakaran's interview offers a kind of hope that some kind of settlement is possible after your parliamentary select committee has reported on the devolution on the Indian model?

President Premadasa

This is a matter that has to be considered by the select committee. The select committee is composed of all parties. As you know if you are to introduce fresh legislation and for that if we are to amend the constitution, we need a two-third majority in the House. So it is absolutely necessary that we consult all parties and reach a consensus on this matter.

What I was trying to say is that my government made necessary provision for elections in June 1990. But what happened? The LTTE turned on us and again started fighting. Ever since then the war has continued at great cost to all parties for over two-and-a-half years.

That is why we are searching for a political solution, a political solution which will be fair to all communities, a political solution which will be a just and durable one.

We are not seeking a military solution to this problem. Our armed services and the police are protecting innocent citizens in that part of the country. We are always prepared for consultations.

Question: M. Uma from London

Mr. Premadasa how do you justify your Buddhist government's action of ordering carpet bombing in Tamil areas as the only means of eliminating the so-called terrorists?

President Premadasa: It is true that the majority of our people are Buddhists and we do have the Hindus, Christians and Muslims. We assist these religions. We are a tolerant nation. We are not, as I said earlier, aiming at a military solution. When a war starts, various methods of war come into play. It is an inhuman government that would order atrocities. It is the responsibility of the armed services and the police to protect the innocent people.

BBC Moderator: Using military means for a political solution?

President Premadasa: Yes, we are not for a military solution but a political solution. A solution based on fairness to all parties concerned.

BBC Moderator: But the point, perhaps, Mr. Uma is trying to get at is in furtherance of a political solution, using military means does not actually protect the civilians you seek to protect. In fact they are suffering.

President Premadasa: What is the position when terrorist activities unleashed on common people, innocent people? You can't expect the armed services people to just look on. They will have to protect the people.

Question from Ken Montgomery from Oxford in England

Hello Mr. President. I am very sad to see the beautiful country like Sri Lanka, once called the pearl of Asia, suffering from economic hardship due to the majority-minority struggles. Instead of spending millions and millions of pounds for fighting, why not ask the good offices of the United Nations to mediate and bring a lasting peace.

President Premadasa: Yes Mr. Montgomery. Did I pronounce your name correctly?

Mr. Montgomery: Correct. You have done it very well.

President Premadasa: We have the same concern you have about this situation. You know our people are capable of finding solutions to their own problems. What is needed is the will to do so. We prefer to resolve our problems among ourselves. In fact why should we bother the United Nations.

BBC Moderator: You don't feel a need at this stage for a United Nations role in solving what is a long standing dispute in which many thousands of people have lost their lives? And as Mr. Montgomery pointed out, there is an economic cost and of course on the social and education front it had hurt the country in many ways. You feel that the United Nations need not have a role?

President Premadasa: They may not have a role. But what I am saying is we are capable of doing so if we have the will. And that is why my government stretched the hand of goodwill to the LTTE.

Question from Anton Jeyaraj in Saudi Arabia

Good evening Mr. Premadasa.

President Premadasa: Good evening. Good evening.

Mr. Jeyaraj: People living in Tamil areas particularly Jaffna are without basic needs such as electricity, transportation, communication, food and even medical supplies for the past three years. Besides, they are subjected to indiscriminate aerial bombing. They are killed when they try to cross the Jaffna lagoon to go to the mainland. You have been talking about a peaceful solution from the time you became president four years ago. Do you have any plan to alleviate this situation in Jaffna sooner?

President Premadasa: Mr. Jeyaraj, I don't think you are fully aware what is happening here. And I don't think you are aware of what we are doing to help the innocent citizens living in the North and the East. We are providing them with all the basic necessities and their requirements.

But do you know that these supplies are being grabbed by terrorist elements and they don't go to the common people? Even in the matter of creating access to that part of the country—to allow the people to have a free movement—the LTTE has not been co-operating with the government so far.

BBC Moderator: What we have gathered about the hardships faced by the people in the North is the urgency with which some kind of solution has to be found to this conflict. As I understand, Mr. President, in a speech made sometime ago you said if the LTTE dropped the term Eelam then there would be a basis on which talks could be held and some kind of solution could be found. As we heard earlier, Prabhakaran has brought up some kind of federal solution, some kind of autonomy for the region would be acceptable to him. Do you think some settlement may be possible sooner or later?

President Premadasa: Yes, I am very hopeful. And I must tell you the moment I became president I unilaterally extended an invitation to the LTTE. As I said earlier, we were discussing this matter. They only demanded elections to the North and East. But by the time we were getting ready for it they again re-started this war.

What I want to say here is that, it will be interesting for you to know, earlier there were several militant groups in our country. At present seven of the militant groups who had opted for separation have given up militancy. Now there is only one—the LTTE.

These other militant groups, I must say, have joined the democratic process. They are genuinely attempting to evolve a political solution to this question.

I summoned an all party conference. We were deliberating over this matter. Then parties in parliament were keen to take over this issue.

And, as I said earlier, only one group is outside the democratic process. It is the LTTE.

It is conducting an armed struggle in the North and East. Our conflict, I must say, is not against the Tamil-speaking people. It is against terrorism.

You know that our constitution provides equal rights to all people. And these rights are justifiable. Great expense is being incurred by our government in providing food, medical supplies and other necessities to these people. These supplies are being grabbed in the North by terrorist action.

Question from Anthony Pillai from London

It is reported that 30 per cent of Sri Lanka's budget expenditure goes on defence spending. Aid from donor countries is being used to subsidise this anomaly. Can a developing country like Sri Lanka afford this level of spending on defence?

President Premadasa: I fully agree with you. These resources are meant for the well-being of our people. I have just been mentioning about the great expense that is being incurred for providing supplies for people in the north and the east.

Many international organisations I must say—organisations like the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees]; the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], will testify to the fact that we are doing everything possible to look after the needs of the people of the north and the east. They are well aware of the humanitarian services that are being provided at great cost. So our government's policy is to resolve the problem through a political solution. The military is there, as I said earlier, to safeguard the innocent civilians.

BBC Moderator: At this stage the amount of money expended on defence, on military expenditure is not going to go down?

President Premadasa: It has in fact gone up.

BBC Moderator: You feel that is justified?

President Premadasa: No. It is a wastage of resources. These resources are for the well-being of our people. That is why we are doing our best to resolve this problem through the process of consultation, through the process of compromise and through the process of consensus. I must say that all parties are co-operating, not only the parties in Parliament but also the militant groups that have given up militancy, the other Tamil parties.

BBC Moderator: Do you find the interview given by Prabhakaran over BBC as witness of potential co-operation from the LTTE as well? Does it encourage you what he said in that interview?

President Premadasa: What is necessary is not just expressing desire but actual performance. He must co-operate with those who are trying to find a political solution. Why can't he submit his proposals to the Select Committee? The Select Committee is prepared to consider all aspects of it. They have not ruled out anything provided any solution is within the unitary system of government. That is because our people cannot survive

in separation. We are a small country. We must live together. We have been living together.

Question from Jagath Bandara from Sydney, Australia: Mr. President you were talking about freedom of the press and democracy. Why do you control the Rupavahini [television] Corporation and the Broadcasting Corporation. It shows only matters regarding your work. For example it does not show any opposition action. It shows only your movements and your activities. Why do you control like this?

President Premadasa: I don't think you are correct in that. I don't think you have had the opportunity of watching the electronic media. In this country the freedom of the media is ensured. There are a large number of newspapers in our country. Your facts are wrong. Our country is a living democracy. Our people have the opportunity to ascertain various views and we project them. There are guidelines that are followed by the electronic media, Rupavahini and ITN [Independent Television Network].

Apart from that, there are a number of newspapers that are published in the country and they are free to publish all views. In fact we have four daily Sinhala newspapers, three Tamil newspapers, three English newspapers, twenty-two Sinhala, four Tamil and eight English weekly papers, two Sinhala fortnightly papers and one Tamil paper and one monthly. We encourage publication of more newspapers. As regards the electronic media, we are providing independent channels on both radio and television. So I don't think your facts are correct.

BBC Moderator: Mr. Bandara you heard the President. How do you respond?

Mr. Bandara: My response is this. For example recently the Sinhala newspaper "LAKDIVA" was under threat by the government straightaway. On the other hand a lot of journalists were attacked by government sponsored thug elements. So these things happen in Sri Lanka today. Still our journalists are under threat by the government.

President Premadasa: Mr. Bandara, may I tell you that there too you have got only one side of the story. You know there are rules and regulations governing various aspects in our country. Government did not ban LAKDIVA. The Colombo Municipal Council had taken action on certain violation of their rules and regulations in respect of the premises they were occupying. Simply because it is a newspaper you are not going to allow such establishments to violate the rules and regulations of the country.

You said the government unleashed thugs to attack journalists. That is not correct. This matter is now being inquired into by a Commission of Inquiry. You have to await that inquiry to pass judgment. You have only heard one side of the story.

BBC Moderator: While on this issue, can we clear another issue. There were charges that businesses who advertise in newspapers who are not automatically endorsing government policy have been dissuaded by government agencies for continuing that kind of advertising and that the newspapers are starved of advertising. What do you say about these allegations?

President Premadasa: That is an absolute falsehood. You have only to turn the pages of these newspapers to see the large number of advertisements that are being published. You have only to ascertain from the business establishments whether any such thing has been done by the government. This is the sort of misinformation that is being spread all over the world. And I am happy to say this so that you will be able to ascertain the truth.

BBC Moderator: We have another call from London. Mr. Siva from London. Your question please.

Mr. Siva: Mr. President I understand that you want discussion with Mrs. Bandaranaike on the economic development of the country. I wonder whether you have thought about having a discussion with the same leader regarding the settlement of the ethnic problem, specially regarding Tamils.

President Premadasa: Of course I am willing to do so. I have not yet had a positive response from Mrs. Bandaranaike to discuss the economic strategies of our government for the country and also to ascertain her alternatives. I am always ready to discuss these matters openly. In Parliament too the members of my party are available there for any debate or discussion on these issues. In respect of the Tamil issue, as I said earlier, an all party select committee of Parliament is now considering this matter in all its aspects.

BBC Moderator: Mr. Siva, what benefit do you think such an exercise like a television debate between the President and a senior politician would have?

Mr. Siva: What I say is that a discussion with the opposition leader openly at least will make a majority of the Sinhalese people feel that there is a will between the two leaders to solve this ethnic problem. That is why I am encouraging to have an open discussion with that leader so that it will encourage the Sinhalese people to understand the problem and the necessity to solve the problem.

President Premadasa: That purpose can be achieved through the process of the select committee. It will be a very considered recommendation from the select committee where all parties can sit together as this is a very complex problem. It is best that we consider the problem in all its aspects.

BBC Moderator: We take another question from London. From Mr. Jayasuriya who will ask the question in Sinhala.

Mr. Jayasuria (from London): Mr. President you have as an instant solution to the unemployment problem opened garment factories. We are very happy about it.

President Clinton of the US is going to reduce the quotas. If that happens what would be the position.

President Premadasa: I will answer your question in English so that other listeners would follow you. As long as people wear garments, the garment industry will flourish. We are not dependent on particular quotas. We know what we are doing. There is no problem of supply of textiles.

BBC Moderator: I think Mr. Jayasuriya may be referring to the GATT talks at which many people think a Multi Fibre Agreement would be signed and that it would have an effect on world trade. There is a fear that Sri Lanka may be disadvantaged, particularly with regard to the garment industry. Can you reassure that would not be the case and that you are in control of that situation?

President Premadasa: We are in control of that situation and we know what we are doing. We are not solely dependent on quota items. A large number of non-quota textile manufacturers are coming in, in view of the fact that our quality of production is high and the cost of production is also acceptable. We have no problem in that sphere.

Question from Seelananda Ratnaweera from Paris: Mr. President I am going to ask about political prisoners in Sri Lanka. I would like to know how long they will be detained?

President Premadasa: We don't have political prisoners in our country. We do have those who have surrendered and who are considered to have been involved in terrorist activities. They are being rehabilitated. A large number have been released after rehabilitation.

BBC Moderator: What do you mean by "political prisoners" Mr. Ratnaweera? The president rejects the idea that there are such a group of people.

Mr. Ratnaweera: I would like to know the meaning of terrorists there?

President Premadasa: You know that Sri Lanka was faced with a most severe challenge in our existence, specially during the 1987,1988, 1989 years when democracy and the whole foundation of democratic establishment was threatened. Actually the integrity of the State was at stake. In these dire circumstances, stability and law and order had to be restored. So Sri Lanka's security forces performed their duty and task resolutely. As a result anarchy was averted. Democracy was saved and Democratic institutions were protected. Law and order was re-established. So in such a situation the government had to take certain action. A large number of them surrendered. Some were arrested and some are facing charges in the courts. Some are being rehabilitated. Most of them have now gone back to society.

BBC Moderator: Mr. President while we are on this issue one of the Amnesty International reports recognises your government is more open now on this area of prisoners, whether they are political prisoners or not. But there still are human rights abuses taking place, that prisoners are untried and in detention for long periods and torture still takes place.

President Premadasa: I think those who are in touch with the situation in Sri Lanka remember the period of terror. They would agree that the democratic way of life which our country has cherished for so many years was saved by the actions taken in 1988, 1989 and 1990.

but I must say there may have been excesses. We are looking into them one by one. Several institutional arrangements have been made. A commission is sitting. They are examining all these alleged excesses and the various complaints made. We know that sometimes violations may have taken place. There have been several cases reported to the courts and action taken through the normal legal process. Those who have violated the rules have been punished.

We have thrown ourselves [open] for review by all kinds of people. The international community, the UN Commission on Human Rights, individual governments, several country missions have visited our country. International NGO's [nongovernment organizations], Amnesty International, Asia Watch, International Commission of Jurists and other such organisations have bee allowed to go into these aspects. We are very co-operative with them.

We are not a government which will condone illegal actions. We have upheld the principle of accountability. That is all those found guilty, of course after proper judicial inquiry, have been suitably dealt with. What is more we have done all this while the State is still being threatened by an insurgency in the north and east of the country.

Question from Mr. Jayantha in Paris (in Sinhala): Mr. Rohana Wijeweera and Gamanayake of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] were arrested and killed on 14th November 1989. You promised to have an independent inquiry into these killings. What happened to it?

President Premadasa: An inquiry was held. You know the JVP was a terror organisation. It was attempting to capture state power by violence. And even now I think it is yet at work. But I must tell you that immediately when I assumed office as President, I invited Mr. Rohana Wijeweera and his members for discussions. I gave them the undertaking that their views will be heard. But what did they do? They escalated their violence.

BBC Moderator: Do you think you have dealt with that killing appropriately?

President Premadasa: Of course. They were killing people all over the country including members of the clergy. They brought the normal life of the country to a standstill. Large numbers of people were suffering. The JVP killed a least 6,000 members of my party—the United National party, leave alone the others. They

killed Buddhist priests, members of other denominations, killed academic people. They were trying to take power through the bullet. They knew that they could never come to power through the ballot. So they took to the bullet.

Question by Alley Poller: Sri Lanka is now having an open economic policy in competition with her large neighbour India and Pakistan. Do you feel snubbed because John Major and Helmut Kohl did not come to Sri Lanka on their visits to India?

President Premadasa: Oh no. Not at all. You know the economic liberalisation programme, which is built on a reform programme initiated by our party in 1977, tried to address two main areas—stimulating growth and of promoting employment.

I must say we have succeeded to a great degree in fulfilling these two objectives. Our growth rate compares well even with ASEAN countries. In 1990 we had a 6.2 per cent growth. In 1991 a little over five percent. In 1992, despite inclement weather that affected our agricultural production, we still reached an average of five per cent. To be more specific about 4.5 per cent.

Private foreign investment has increased to almost 250 million dollars annually. Our incentives have attracted investors. The garments industry has attracted many joint ventures from the west and east and also from the region. British investors are coming daily to Sri Lanka. American investors individually and collectively are visiting Sri Lanka and investing in our country.

Sri Lanka's economic situation is improving under the open economic policies in spite of the ongoing war situation in the north and east. We are providing avenues of revenue for all sections of the people in a big way.

Question from Don Jayasuriya in London: Mr. President, your programme of poverty alleviation which is known as Janasaviya has now been in place for almost four years. Has it been a success, in your view, in tackling the question of poverty?

President Premadasa: The Janasaviya is mobilising the inherent strength of the poor people in our country. We have found richness in poverty. Janasaviya is a programme to alleviate poverty. We have about 14 lakhs of families who are in poverty.

We are taking each group into the Janasaviya process where we give them not only training in various vocations but also provide them with food so that they improve their health conditions. So far we have completed three rounds. These people are now contributing to the economic welfare of the country.

Janasaviya is not a handout. Earlier poverty alleviation programmes were in fact doles or handouts. Janasaviya helps to bring out the strength the people have in them.

BBC Moderator: Mr. Jayasuriya. Is that the impression you have calling from London?.

Mr. Jayasuriya: Yes that is correct.

BBC Moderator: So you feel that the programme is going well.

Mr. Jayasuriya: It is. Yes.

Question from Mr. Pratap de Silva from France: Mr. President. Why does your government continue to hold Mrs. Wijeweera, wife of Rohana Wijeweera, the slain leader of the JVP and her children in a state of unofficial arrest in an army camp, when numerous requests have been made by family members for her release and several governments have expressed their willingness to accept them?

President Premadasa: We are keeping Mrs. Wijeweera and her children safely for their own safety, if I may say so because there are a large number of people who have suffered at the hands of the JVP. We feel it is nothing but correct for the government to protect the family of Rohana Wijeweera. They are being provided with all their needs. They are very happy to be with that sort of security arrangement. Otherwise if somebody harms them, they will blame it on the government. It is for their own safety that we have done so.

Mr. Pratap de Silva: I have heard this of the rest of the political prisoners that have been held in Sri Lanka today that they are being held for their own protection. They have made numerous protests in prison camps. Is this the behaviour of people who want to be protected? Many political prisoners are being held without trial. In fact there is one who has filed suit against the government for damages for being held after he was acquitted after trial.

President Premadasa: Mrs. Wijeweera's case is different from the others. Others are those who had taken part in terrorist activities. They are not political prisoners. They have surrendered themselves. Some have been arrested for illegal action. And they are at liberty to take these matters to court.

As you yourself said just now several cases have been filed. There have been determinations by the courts. The government follows the judgements given by the courts. Others have been rehabilitated. They have entered the normal life in the country. In regard to others, charges are being framed and are being produced in courts.

Question from Mrs. Dabrera from London: Mr. President, as AIDS is a major problem in the modern world what steps has Sri Lanka taken to combat the state of AIDS in the country?

President Premadasa: All the modern precautionary measures are being taken by my government and the Ministry of Health. We are in touch with the World Health Organisation and other institutions. We are doing everything possible to arrest this situation.

Question from Miss Yaseen Vanderhoert from Amsterdam: Your Excellency, you have often said that you are very much inspired by the image of King Dharmasoka. Would you give us an indication of how you were inspired by him.

President Premadasa: I am inspired by his great tolerance. His method of government where he treated all people equally giving them equal opportunities and treating not only human beings but all beings with compassion.

Question from Mr. S. Liyanage from London: Mr. President we have heard that one of your special interests is the protection of the environment. What measures are you taking to protect Sri Lanka's natural beauty which has been undermined by the economic development that has been taking place today?

President Premadasa: Mr. Liyanage I must tell you before I became president, when I was prime minister, I introduced the Environmental Protection Act in our country. We have given very careful attention to this problem. Our industrialisation policy includes guidelines for conservation and environmental protection. In fact industrial development within the Free Trade Zones ensures these protective measures needed to safeguard the environment will be put in place.

BBC Moderator: We will have to stop there Mr. President. We're run out of time. I hope you have found this is a valuable hour.

President Premadasa: It was very interesting. You as moderator I hope would have enjoyed this programme. I am pleased that I got this opportunity because I have been able to clarify certain very important issues on which there had been a lot of misinformation.